

IRISES



The Bulletin of the American Iris Society

Spring 2015



Volume 96, No. 2

www.irises.org

The American Iris Society is a non-profit institution incorporated February 2, 1927, in the County of Philadelphia, State of Pennsylvania. By the terms of the Charter, the Corporation has no stockholders and exists for the sole purpose of promoting the culture and improvement of the Iris.

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One stop on the 2015 AIS Convention garden tour
Photo by Miller

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(Zurbrigg, 2004 TB RE)
Photo by M Lockatell



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Photo by J Delaney



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Part of Franklin Cook's garden in Illinois.
Photo from Katharine Cook

What did Jim Morris find as he journeyed through the Blue Mountains of Australia?
Photo by J Morris



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On the Front Cover:
The Joyce Lockatell Memorial Garden
Cosby Farm, Powhatan County, Virginia
Photo by Mike Lockatell

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(see page 61 for section membership information)

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It is my pleasure to announce that the AIS board of directors approved my appointment of Susan Grigg of Raleigh, North Carolina, Region 4, as RVP Counselor succeeding Cheryl Deaton whose term on the board expired in 2014. Susan plans a strong effort to get our RVPs more engaged in helping to direct the future of the American Iris Society. Since our Regional Vice Presidents are expected to attend AIS conventions and to attend AIS board meetings, the RVPs should do their part by attending in Portland, Oregon this spring and Omaha, Nebraska this fall. If for some reason an RVP can't attend, it is incumbent on them to arrange for an alternate to represent their region.

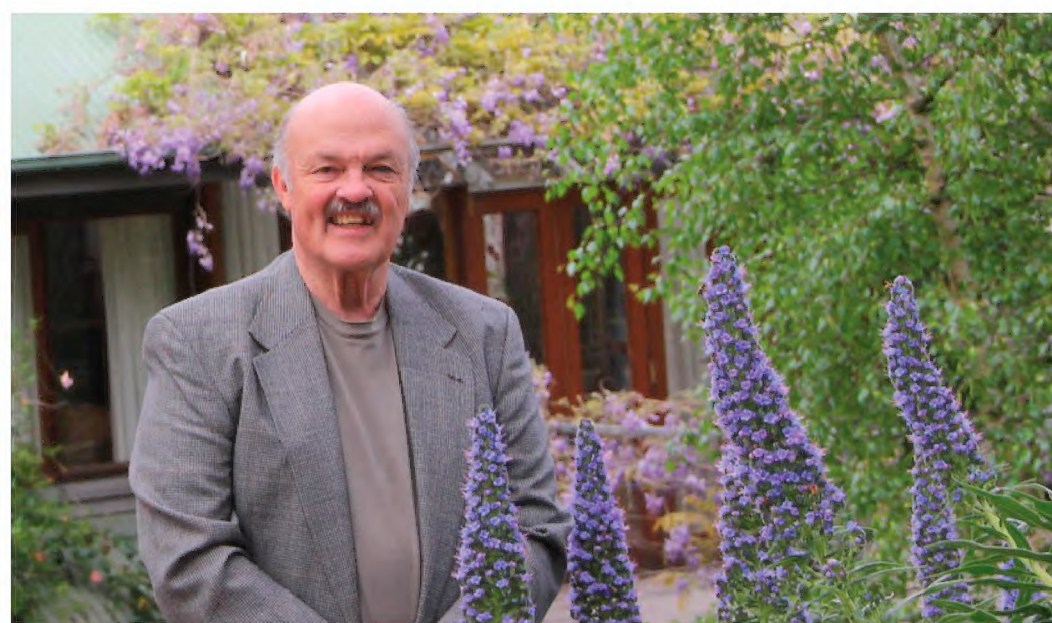


Photo of Jim with Echium was taken at Niland Garden in Australia. His article about his Australian trip is on page 12.

Want to get your hands dirty? It is a good thing that we have folks performing so many jobs in our affiliates, regions and sections. It is a bad thing that we have folks performing so many jobs in our affiliates, regions and sections. What? Well, we are spread pretty thin at the national level with a few people performing too many jobs individually. We need new blood to perform some of our important functions. I know the talent is out there, we just need for some new folks to come forward. Many excellent people are performing at various levels, but that siphons off folks that could do jobs at the national level.

We still need (for almost two years now) someone to succeed John Jones in the Electronic Services function. We need a Recording Secretary to succeed Susan Boyce to record the minutes at our board meetings. Paul Gossett has resigned the Convention Liaison position because of his health. Kathleen Sonntag has resigned as Editor after completion of this spring edition of *IRISES*. As a professional writer and editor she has other interests in the biography and feature article world. Her six editions of the bulletin have been a positive contribution to the iris community. For that we thank her. Personally, I think she has done a terrific job of editing and layout! If you agree please let her know. Kudos are always welcome.

So, if any of you folks out there have some skills that would be helpful to the board, please come forward and "get your hands dirty." We need your help.

As I write this there's snow on the ground in Missouri. I know that many of you are looking forward to the spring iris convention in Portland, Oregon. Almost five hundred folks have signed up as we go to publication. This includes a contingent of about twenty-five from Australia and New Zealand. As I have been snowbound like much of the country (my cadet grandson at West Point, New York, has been buried in over three feet of snow) I have had the opportunity to read many section and regional publications. The diverse articles therein prove that the AIS has a lot of talented people.

I was fascinated by an article, *Record Keeping Made Easy*, by Judy Schneider in the Region 17 (Texas) spring 2015 *Newsletter*. She describes a reasonably priced software system called *Plantstep* which is purportedly easily downloaded from *plantstep.com* and is user friendly for non-computer people. To my knowledge I have never met Judy, but I hope to if she comes to Portland. Likewise, I would like to meet Dennis Deegan from Ohio and Venita Faye Scott from Texas. It seems that Dennis wrote a blog about meeting and riding on the convention tour bus with Venita Faye at the AIS convention when it was held in Madison, Wisconsin. This humorous, yet erudite, blog was printed in the same Region 17 *Newsletter*. These are but two examples of good stuff being done "out there."

I am in my third and final year as your president. I hope to see many of you in Portland. If you haven't met me yet, please stop and introduce yourself. Think spring! 🌸

Jim Morris

Connect with AIS!



My last issue has articles about exploration around the world and hybridizers, current and classic. Our youth members continue to take on projects as do the regional societies. There are new opportunities to use your skills to make the AIS a growing society on the ground and on the internet. I hope you find pleasure and inspiration in this issue and in your garden. Enjoy the convention!

It has been a short run for me creating *IRISES*. Someone said I was just getting broken in. The work I have done in my almost seventy years: teacher, engineering program manager, editor, publication designer, writer and archivist, has prepared me for my big project: I am writing a biography. The subject is not famous; she lived in Carmel from 1915 to 1950. This is not a project I can leave for some time in the future. There is much research to be done and lots of stories to write. It is time for me to focus. My source of inspiration is shown in the photo.



There are many irisarians to thank for the support they have given me on the six issues of the bulletin that I produced for the AIS. Among them are the authors who have worked patiently with me on their articles and the proofreaders who have found the typographical and grammatical errors that only several pairs of eyes can uncover, and Jim Morris, who gave me the opportunity to take on this job.

I leave you with the words of Mark Twain:

"Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things that you didn't do than by the ones you did. So throw off the bowlines. Sail away from the safe harbor. Catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore. Dream. Discover."

Kathleen Sonntag, Editor

Omissions and Errata

Mislabeled photos (get your pen out):

The cover photo for the Winter 2015 issue of *IRISES* is the TB 'Purissima' (Mohr-Mitchell, R. 1927), not 'Snow Flurry'.

Page 20, the labels on the Ghio irises 'Christmas Present' and 'Magical' are reversed.

In the 2014 TB Symposium Report on page 35, the following irises were omitted from position 80 (23 votes)

'Chief John Jolly' (Parkhill T. 2003);

'Devonshire Cream' (Sutton, G. 2000)

'Magical' (Ghio, J. 2008)

In the 2014 Exhibition Report, the following errors and omissions are noted:

Page 40, line 2 Region 14, Walnut Creek. Linda Woods won best the specimen award for 'Backlit Beauty', not 'Thornbird'.

Page 41, the Region 24 entry was cut off:

5/3, Wate Valley, MS, TB 'Rebecca Ann' was exhibited by Carrie Rice; Carrie Rice (16) silver medals, Truman Scarborough (6) bronze medals

Page 47, the labels for the lists are incorrect (pen ready?):

At the top, *Median* Dwarf Bearded should be *Miniature* Dwarf Bearded

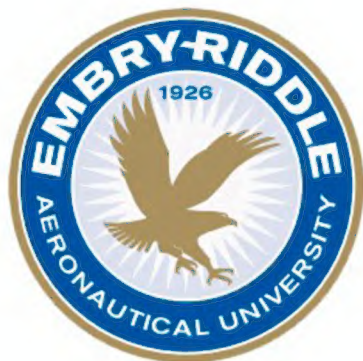
The grouping at the bottom of the first column *Median* Tall Bearded should be *Miniature* Tall Bearded

Thank you for bringing these errors to my attention. Kathleen

Deadlines for receiving materials are February 15 (Spring Issue), May 15 (Summer Issue), August 15 (Fall Issue), and November 15 (Winter Issue). All images must be submitted electronically in a minimum 300 dpi resolution for publication. Failure to provide quality images at time of submission may result in those images not being published. Manuscripts should be submitted via email in MS Word format without excess formatting and nonstandard fonts. The editor reserves the right to schedule submissions for the appropriate issue regardless of the date of submission.

Spotlight: Firefighter Memorial Garden

PHOTOS AND TEXT BY DENNIS LUEBKIN AND JUDY BOOK, ARIZONA



The Prescott Area Iris Society (PAIS) is involved in a number of community projects including refurbishing the old Citizens Cemetery grounds and iris plantings along with planting and maintaining the iris gardens at the Sharlot Hall Museum and the Sculpture Garden at Yavapai College. After the Yarnell fire, PAIS and its members began seeking a way to honor the fallen firefighters since several of the men had been friends or acquaintances of our members. When PAIS was approached by Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University to join them in creating the Fire Fighters Memorial, we were honored to be included in planning this memorial garden.

The gardens, when completed, will contain iris, daffodils and daylilies. To honor the fallen fire fighters and all fire fighters, PAIS has chosen iris names from the American Iris Societies registered named varieties to reflect the attributes

of fire fighters and first responders: 'Dauntless', 'Rare Quality', 'Dream Team' and 'Living Legacy'. Located at the entrance to the Hass Interfaith Memorial Chapel, the plantings will also include iris named 'Blazing Beacon', 'Flame' and 'Molten Embers', 'Heavenly Encore', 'Stairway to Heaven' and 'In the Stars'. Iris have been donated by iris lovers from across the United States for this planting.

One of our members lost his home to the fire in Yarnell and yet nearly all of his iris survived. His first iris to bloom after the fire was 'Immortality' (Zurbrigg, 1982 TB), which is included in this garden.

These flowers are our small thank you to the brave, dedicated men who give of themselves to protect and serve our communities. ❀

2014 Australian Dykes Medal Goes to 'Scared Stiff'



'Scared Stiff' (Graeme Grosvenor 2007)

Photo by Sharon Drinkwater

In Memoriam

On behalf of The American Iris Society, we extend our condolences and respects to the families and friends of these deceased iris lovers.

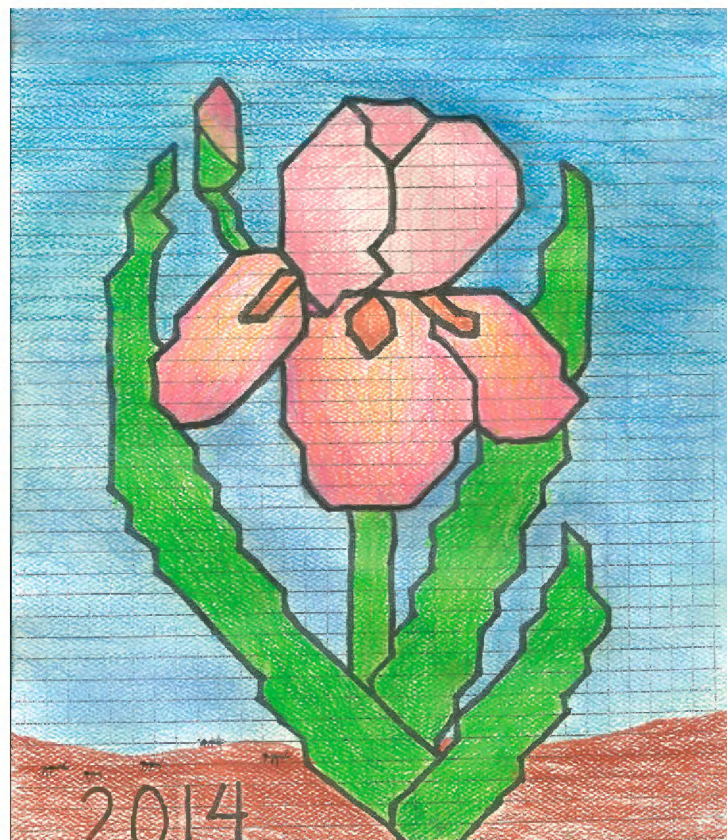
<i>Harold E Cooper</i>	<i>Brookfield, Ohio</i>
<i>Kay Crumrine</i>	<i>Odessa, Texas</i>
<i>Jimmie Gibbons</i>	<i>Sherman, Texas</i>
<i>Les Houser</i>	<i>Dodge City, Kansas</i>
<i>Larry G Johnson</i>	<i>Walnut Grove, Missouri</i>
<i>Mary L Learn</i>	<i>Bath, New York</i>
<i>Freda S Martin</i>	<i>Harrisonburg, Virginia</i>
<i>Edward L Paquet</i>	<i>Prosperity, South Carolina</i>
<i>Donald R Saxon</i>	<i>Huntsville, Alabama</i>
<i>Harold Stahly</i>	<i>Grand Ledge, Michigan</i>
<i>Dorothy Stahly</i>	<i>Grand Ledge, Michigan</i>
<i>Emery Swartzendruber</i>	<i>Rocky Ford, Colorado</i>

Youth Views

BY CHERYL DEATON, CALIFORNIA

As I write this in March, in my part of the country spring has arrived with warm temperatures and iris bloom, while most of the rest of you are still experiencing winter temperatures. When you read this I hope that you are enjoying your garden's rebirth with many beautiful flowers.

The AIS Youth Coloring Contest was conducted in the fall of 2014. The overall winner was **Katharina Brase of Region 21**. Her entry was also judged the best



in her age group (7 to 9 years). Alexis Cipolla's entry from Region 14, also in the 7 to 9 year old group, was selected as the Most Creative. Cash prizes were distributed to all of the entrants. Some of the other first place winners were: Sarah

Green, Region 21, (16 years and up); Rebekah Brase, Region 21 (13 to 15 years); J.T. Hill, Region 18, (10 to 12 years); Josh Foreman, Region 15, (6 years and under). Congratulations to all our participants! The judges found their job a difficult one due to the quality of the entries. That is Katharina's winning entry above.

The winners of the Ackerman Essay Contest and the Clarke Cosgrove Memorial Award for Youth Achievement have been decided. They will be revealed at the Awards Banquet in Portland, Oregon at the AIS National Convention.

So far, I know two youth members will be attending the convention. I hope that many more youth will join in the adventure. A National Convention in Portland is a treat to be enjoyed by everyone, but especially youth members who have the opportunity to visit the major iris gardens and meet many of the hybridizers that they may only know through the pictures in catalogs. There will be many attendees from overseas as well, which is a wonderful way to broaden your circle of iris friends. With the internet, it is easy to keep in touch with international friends and to compare notes with each other on your favorite irises.



The Prescott Area Iris Society (PAIS) is working on a Classroom Iris Program (CIP) project. Twenty-seven scouts are volunteering in a local historic cemetery. They are cleaning up the grave sites, removing overgrown weeds and grass, and dividing the irises that dot the landscape and replanting them. (*Ed note: Whew, that's a big job!*) The scouts are also attempting to identify many of these historic irises, which is a difficult endeavor to say the least. Many of the historic irises only have a description in the registration and introduction books (R&Is), and they can be very similar. PAIS member, Sharon Luebkin, a retired teacher, has visited a few elementary classrooms to give a talk on irises for their geography and science classes. She has planted irises at some of the school gardens as a beautification project. (Photos above by Dennis and Sharon Luebkin)

Many iris clubs are getting ready for their spring shows, and this is the perfect time to mentor a younger member about our favorite flower, give them tips on presentation and entering an iris show, and perhaps recruit them to help as a clerk, or in some other way. I encourage you to have a Youth Table where kids can touch, smell, and get close to iris blooms freely, perhaps have a few crayons and a coloring page for them. Youth members can talk to other kids and adults about growing iris as a drought tolerant plant and about joining your club. There are just under three hundred youth members in the AIS. We need to recruit more young people to keep the "iris virus" alive. Youth members are our future, and as a society we need youth membership to grow to increase our society membership. ❀

Hope to see you in a garden someday. Happy Irising!

Section Happenings

BY GARY WHITE, AIS SECTION AND COOPERATING SOCIETY LIAISON, NEBRASKA

The AIS Convention is a short time away by the time you read this. If you are attending, do take advantage of the various programs offered by the Sections and Cooperating Societies. These will be listed in the convention booklet. Most will be on Wednesday, May 20, but a few will be in the evenings later in the week.

Historic Iris Preservation Society (HIPS)

HIPS is building a new website in Word Press. The new website designer is Scott Healy and the new webmaster is Laetitia Munro. The website will be redesigned, with revamped features such as the HIPS photo gallery, the HIPS Forum, and improved and expanded membership pages. Stay tuned for the launch of this new HIPS website.

Dave Prichard is the new Commercial Source Chair for *HIPS*. His job is to provide members with source information for historic irises that are currently available commercially.

Median Iris Society

The Median Iris Society is planning a mini convention on May 18-20, 2017 immediately before the 2017 Des Moines AIS Convention. We are requesting guest iris. See page 45 for details.

Society for Louisiana Irises

In 2016 the SLI convention will be in Shreveport, Louisiana, and in 2017 it goes back to Dallas, Texas. The 2018 convention will be a joint convention with the AIS, SLI and the Greater New Orleans Iris Society in New Orleans, Louisiana. We are requesting guest iris. See page 48 for details.

Aril Society International (ASI)

The *Aril Yearbook* is now out and in the hands of members! This issue is actually a Special Publication 2011-2014. In this publication, are two articles on aril median hybridizing, including *Bearded Species for Breeding Arilbred Medians* by Tom Waters and *Three Views on Hybridizing for Arilmedians* by Anita Moran, Tom Waters, and Elm Jensen. Another interesting article by Pete McGrath caught my attention: *Hybridizing for Veining in Arilbred Iris*. There is also an article on *Aril Conservation: What Can ASI Do?* Then there is the fascinating account by Dr. Carol Wilson *Exploring for Iris in Turkey* in the spring of 2011. Finally, there are descriptions and accompanying color photos of 30 recent aril and arilbred registrations and introductions. All in all, this is a really interesting, colorful, and useful publication, easily worth the cost of membership in ASI 🌸.

Bloomin' Bucks\$ with Brent and Becky's Bulbs

Bloomin' Bucks with Brent and Becky's Bulbs is a progressive fundraising program designed to earn select Non-Profit organizations cash for every order received through the Brent and Becky's Bulbs website! On behalf of the participating 387 organizations, thank you for your support!!

- 1) Scroll down and select the organization that you'd like to support.
- 2) Hit "Go".
- 3) You will go to a special REMINDER page. Read it and click YES to continue.
- 4) You will be taken to the Brent and Becky's Bulbs website where a portion of every dollar you spend goes to support the organization you chose.
- 5) If you have questions, call Brent and Becky's Bulbs: 877-661-2852

Select an Organization to support! *  Go

* No Fundraising orders will be taken for an estimated period of time between Mid-November and Mid-January! Orders through Bloomin' Bucks to support select organizations are NOT QUALIFIED for additional discounting.

The American Iris Society 2015 Photo Contest

BY JANET SMITH, AIS PHOTO CONTEST CHAIR

The American Iris Society invites you to participate in the 2015 Photo Contest. This contest is free and open to everyone with the exception of contest judges and the contest coordinator. The winning photo for each category will be published in the January AIS Bulletin and on the AIS web site. (Prior years' winners, runners up, and honorable mention photos can be viewed on the AIS web site at www.irises.org.)

The 2015 winner of each category (if within the USA) will receive a 2015 introduction. The winner of each category will also receive a single annual membership, or single e-membership or annual membership extension to the AIS. Winners who are AIS life members will receive an e-membership or annual membership in an AIS Section of their choice. Runners-up in each category (if within the USA) will receive a 2013 or 2014 introduction.

How to Enter

The entry form is on the AIS website. Fill out the entry form designating the category you are entering. E-mail high resolution (i.e. no smaller than 1600 x 1000 in size) digital photos or mail a CD with your high resolution photos to the AIS Photo Contest Coordinator at the address indicated. You may submit up to five (5) photos total for this contest.

The deadline for submitting photos to the 2014 Photo Contest is no later than midnight PDT June 30, 2015. (NOTE: Any photo submitted that was a winner in a previous year will automatically be disqualified.) There must be irises of the genus *Iris* in the photo.

Entries will be judged in the following six (6) categories:

1. Landscape: Irises in a landscaped garden.
2. Field: Irises in a field or home garden.
3. People: Events, tours, a person, or people (at iris location).
4. Close up of an iris or irises.
5. Effects: Iris photos- art effects, macro of bloom segments.
6. Wildlife: Photos of pets, wildlife, or garden art with the irises.

You must name each image file to match the entry form. Include the category, the iris variety, the name of the iris, and the photographer for each photo on the entry form and the photo file name, if known. (file name example: category_iris variety _iris name_photographer name_location)

A panel of three judges will select the winners from the photos received by midnight PDT June 30, 2015. Their decision will be final. Photos taken by a youth photographer (under age 19) in any of the six (6) categories will be judged separately from the adult entries.

Send inquiries to aisphotocoordinator@irises.org

The American Iris Society Photo Contest,
c/o Janet Smith, P O Box 1585,
Coarsegold, CA 93614-1585

Attention Judges: Awards Chair on Travel

AIS Awards Chair Gerry Snyder will be on foreign travel from March 26 through June 6, during which period he will have only limited internet connectivity. Judges having problems then, especially if a replacement ballot is needed, should contact Ruth Barker at 336-644-1060, email:

RUTHBB@aol.com (please CC me: aisawards@irises.org).

Irises Down Under, Australia

(Gobsmacked in Australia & New Zealand, Part 2)

TEXT AND PHOTOS BY JIM MORRIS, MISSOURI

During my October/November 2014 visit the most prevalent irises in gardens appeared to be species such as *I. japonica*, *I. pallida* and *I. setosa* as well as unnamed PCIs and historic bearded irises. There was also a representation of Dutch irises, *I. wattii*, *I. verna*, *I. gracilipes*, *I. cristata*, and *I. innominata* to complement the wonderful plantings of azaleas, rhododendrons, dogwoods, Japanese maples, and a multitude of temperate and subtropical annuals and perennials. Artist and book author Tricia Oktober had the most florally jam-packed garden in Leura, New South Wales (NSW), Australia. Everywhere I looked there were plants I had never seen before except in catalogs.

The Everglades Garden in Katoomba, NSW was outstanding also with its stunning *Echium candicans* 'Pride of Madiera' cone-shaped blue flowers. The lilac terrace there could have been named iris row for the over one hundred foot long planting of *I. pallida*.

A tremendous thirty-foot rhododendron fronted the Craignish garden of David Little and Peter McCamley in Leura. It was liberally planted with many exotic plants from clivias to camellias. This garden contained many Dutch irises and unnamed PCIs and spurias. There was one tall bearded (TB) iris that could have been 'Blue Petticoats'.

The entrance to Jo and Michael Maxwell's Chapel House was blocked by large fallen limbs from an earlier wind storm so we came in the back way past the horse stables and duck pond planted with *I. pseudacorus*. Other irises included 'Florentina' (Collected in Italy c. 1500), 'Indian Chief' (Ayres 1929, TB) and some beautiful unnamed blue TBs. Another historic yellow TB was displayed well against a stone wall. The white wisteria and blue mist shrubs were spectacular.

We traveled for many miles through the Blue Mountains to the cool climate Mayfield Gardens with its pavilions, waterfalls, rock walls and acres of plantings of azaleas, rhododendrons and more. Large clumps of Dutch irises were impressive along with *I. virginica* and the Louisianas 'Better Believe It' (J. Taylor 1998-99) and 'Dural White Butterfly' (J. Taylor 1989-90).

The Hillandale Garden and Nursery had only two named irises, 'Bloodstone' (Schreiner 1980, SDB) and 'Over Easy' (C. Lankow 1990, SDB) and clumps of *I. germanica*. The twisty, narrow English rill¹ (photo below) and historic sweet pea 'Capani' (c. 1600) were most impressive.



English Rill at Hillandale Garden



Rhododendron, Craignish Garden



PCI UKN Niland Garden



'Dural White Butterfly' (J. Taylor 1989-90) LA
Mayfield Garden



UKN Historic TB Chapel House

The Woodgreen Garden of Peta Trahar in Bilpin had two acres of garden and sixty acres for her Angus cattle. She had a shed for "chooks," the Australian term for chickens. Siberians 'Summer Sky' (Cleveland 1935) and 'Pink Haze' (McGarvey 1980) were in bloom as well as several unnamed PCIs. A past Australian Dykes Medal winner 'Jayceetee' (Grosvenor 2001-02, TB) and past American Dykes Medal winner 'Victoria Falls' (Schreiner 1977, TB) were doing well.

Next we visited the Kookaburra Garden of Tina and John Brauer in Bilpin. This was one of a few Dykes Medal Trial Gardens for both TBs and LAs. Here we saw 'Janet's Joy' (Judith Evans 2011-12, TB) and 'Tay Daum' (G. Grosvenor 2012-13, TB). The Louisianas were planted around a water feature but were not labeled. Focal points in the garden were a lemon tree and a beautiful weeping cherry tree.



'Tay Daum' (Grosvenor 2012-13)TB
Dykes 2013



Echium candicans 'Pride of Madiera'
Everglades Garden Katoomba, NSW



'JayceeTee' (Grosvenor 2001-02) TB

On to the Blue Mountains Botanic Garden in Mt. Tomah where thousands of *I. japonica* plants were in bloom along with proteas and waratahs. A prolific climbing rose, *R. banksiae* from China via Calcutta, was entwined overhead and the TB irises ‘Caracas’ (Ghio 1991) and ‘Jayceetee’ were in peak bloom. Once more we saw and admired the Siberian ‘Summer Sky’.

Back to our host garden, Mt. Victoria, of John and Carmel Niland (president of ISA) near Leura. Our everyday views of the Blue Mountains, rhododendrons, azaleas, wisterias, *Echium candicans*, PCIs, creeping phlox and interconnecting ponds were awesome. I hand fed red and blue parrots called rosellas, which landed on my head and shoulders, and “I thought to myself, what a wonderful world.”

Leaving the Blue Mountains, we flew to Melbourne and on to Barry and Gwyneth Blyth’s home in Pearcedale, Victoria, Australia. Their home garden was planted with some of Gwyneth’s favorite TBs which included ‘That’s All Folks’ (2005) and ‘Barbara My Love’ (1999), both by Bill Maryott, and Barry’s ‘Captain Thunderbolt’ (2011-12) and ‘Matters Of The Heart’ (2012-13).

We stayed a week visiting the vast varietal and seedling fields at Tempo Two. It was peak TB bloom time with most SDBs past, but IBs were still going strong. It is almost impossible to choose just a few irises but I will try to keep the list short. Among the Blyth new 2014-15 IB introductions was ‘Primal’ in stunning apricot toffee blending with rich violet beards tipped deep orange so they appear near black. ‘Zanzibar Zing’ was very impressive with bright gold standards and brown on yellow plicated falls and burnt orange beards.

The Blyth new 2014-15 TB introductions included: ‘Colours Of The Wind’, an amoena with an apricot beige overlay on the falls with a vivid red beard; ‘Diamond Broker’, a lemon cream over creamy white with a lemon edge; and, ‘Gathering Gold’ in lemon yellow with the wide form Barry has become known for. Other outstanding Blyth TB irises included: ‘Ambertime’ (2011-12); ‘Cinnamon Bells’ (2010-11); ‘Copper Clouds’ (2007-08) ‘Sea For Miles’ (2013-14); and ‘Taffeta Princess’ (2013-14). Lesley Blyth’s ‘Lesley My Love’ (2008-09, TB) was a gorgeous ruffled wide pink over pale pink edged darker with coral beards. Three TB irises from America that were excellent here were ‘House Arrest’ (Keppel 2014), ‘Insaniac’ (T. Johnson 2012) and ‘I Must Have It’ (Black 2011).

The time we spent at Tempo Two was pure joy! 🌸

Jim’s story will continue with irises in New Zealand in the summer issue of IRISES.

¹ A rill is a shallow channel (no more than a few tens of centimeters deep) cut into soil by the erosive action of flowing water. The ancient Persians and other middle eastern and Mediterranean cultures originated artificial rills and the English adopted them for their gardens. They may be unlined or lined to slow erosive effects.



Waratah (*Telopea speciosissima*)
Proteaceae Family
Blue Mountains Botanic
Garden



‘House Arrest’ (Keppel 2014) TB



'Taffeta Princess' (Blyth 2013-14) TB



'Colours Of The Wind' (Blyth 2014-15) TB



'Primal' (Blyth 2014-15) IB



'Matters of the Heart' (Blyth 2012-13) TB

Remembering Friends

BY JIM MORRIS, OBITUARIES EDITOR

In my humbling role of obit editor people are always pointing out notices and memorials to me and I scan our local newspaper each day. Obituaries in newspapers are basically the same with an occasional attempt at some humor. But the on-line obits from the aging baby boomer generation have shown some interesting wrinkles lately. Self-written obits, “selfies,” have been showing up and some have even gone viral. It appears to be an extension of the blogging phenomenon.

In this issue we report on the demise of hybridizer and AIS past president Hal Stahly and his wife Dorothy of Region 6, Michigan, iris hybridizer Steve Varner of Region 9, Illinois, and Steve Stone of Region 7, Tennessee.

**Harold (Hal) L. Stahly (1926 – 2015) and
Dorothy L. Stahly (1927 – 2015)**



It is almost unbelievable that Hal and Dorothy Stahly of Grand Ledge, Michigan, Region 6, would pass away from natural causes only six days apart. Hal was born on May 14, 1926 at Milford, Nebraska and died January 9, 2015 at the age of 88. Dorothy was born on December 8, 1927 at Indianapolis, Indiana and died on January 15, 2015 at the age of 87. They were married for 67 years. They raised five children and had eleven grandchildren and one great-grandson. The Stahlys were world travelers and created friendships wherever they visited. They were both teachers. Hal completed his PhD in Educational Psychology at Indiana University and served in the U.S. Navy as a radio technician during World War II in the San Francisco area. Dorothy was an English teacher with a specialty in Shakespeare.

It was at Grace United Methodist Church in Cape Girardeau, Missouri that I first met the Stahlys. It

became known that Hal was an iris grower. So, one Sunday morning I suggested to Hal that he might want to join the American Iris Society. He responded, “Yes, I have been thinking about it.” I then said, “Give me \$10 and I’ll mail it in for you,” which he did. That was in 1962.

After a couple of years, Hal and Dorothy moved to Macomb, Illinois. Then, they moved on to Flint, Michigan where Hal finished his teaching career at the University of Michigan at Flint. Dorothy finished her career at the Grand Blanc High school.

Hal and Dorothy became best friends of my wife, Marie, and me. We attended over forty AIS conventions together. In the early days, our wives stayed at home taking care of the kids; later, they joined us. They really didn’t care much about irises, but they came along to keep us company. They formed the non-iris society. When they knew we were listening they would mock us by saying things like, “Did you notice that iris, ‘Death warmed Over’? The falls were just too long and that dirty mustard beard was just terrible. How could anyone introduce an iris like that?”

Dorothy was quite a seamstress and belonged to the quilting club in Flint. She served as Co-chair of the AIS Convention when it met in Michigan in 1995. Her welcoming speech told everyone they were in for a good time.

Hal registered and introduced seventy-nine irises in thirty years. There were two SDBs, eight IBs, seven BBs, seven Siberians, two JIs, one TB-SA and fifty two TBs. Out of this group he received twenty HMs, seven AMs and the Knowlton Medal in 1987 for ‘Drum Solo’ (1980, BB). His first two introductions were in 1978 and his last three were in 2008. One of his AM winners ‘Obligato’ (1988, IB), if well-grown has sent up two to four bloom stalks per rhizome and has rebloomed. Hal Stahly received the AIS Hybridizer’s Medal in 2006. In shows he received two Silver Medals for Educational exhibits, six bronze medals, and six silver medals for Exhibitions. In Italy he received the Georgio Saviane at the Premio Firenze (Florence) in 2006 for ‘Call Waiting’ (1998, TB); then, in 2008 he received the *Mensione Onorabile* award for ‘Celtic Glory’ (2000, TB).

It wasn’t long after arriving in Michigan that Hal became the RVP for Region 6 where he served for three years. Then he became President of the American Iris Society and served for three years (1981-1983). Hal received the Distinguished Service Award from the

American Iris Society and also from Region 6 for his services to each.

Hal's iris introductions ranged in all colors from black ('Black Flag' and 'Midnight Vigil') to white (with blue beards 'Shadow Of A Smile' and pure white like 'Affirmative') to red ('Wrangler') to orange (the Celtic series and 'Obligato'). 'Affirmative' (2006, TB) makes a perfect show stalk. One year I had the perfect stalk of it with three blooms open. A friend came along and asked if he could help. Not thinking, I said, "Yes, bring in that box." He grabbed it and looking down, not up, he broke off the top bloom of 'Affirmative'. He told me, "he said to himself, 'What a dumb ass I am.'" Looking down at the tag he read, 'Affirmative.'"

We are certainly going to miss this solid, dependable, serving and fun loving couple. ❀

By Dave Niswonger

Dwight Steve Varner (1917 – 2015)



Steve Varner, 97, of Monticello, Illinois, Region 9, passed away December 9, 2014. His passing marks the end of an era in Illinois iris hybridizing that stretches back to his peers such as Clarence Blocher of Wheaton, Harley Briscoe of White Hall, Wilma Greenlee of Chrisman, Brother Charles Reckamp of Techny, and Nathan Rudolph of Aurora.

Steve was born in rural Piatt County, Illinois, April 14, 1917. He married his University of Illinois college sweetheart, Avis Beede of Dixon, on December 24, 1940. Avis died in October 2008, after nearly sixty-eight years of marriage. Varner was preceded in death by a brother George David, and two sisters, Margarite and Betty. He is survived by four sons, six grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren. Also surviving are his sisters Florene Wrench of Marshfield, Missouri, and Linda Fombelle of Decatur, Illinois

Varner was a graduate of the University of Illinois with a Bachelor of Science in agriculture. He went through the ROTC program and entered the U.S. Army in June 1941

as a Lieutenant, assigned to the 1st Armored Division. Fiercely proud of his Illinois heritage, he named his tank "Fighting Illini." As a tank commander under General Patton's command, Varner fought in the battles across Algeria and Tunisia in North Africa. A Purple Heart recipient, Major Varner was medically retired in February 1945. He returned home and re-entered the University of Illinois where he earned his Master of Science in Animal Nutrition. Employed for twenty-seven years with the VioBin Corporation, he retired in 1977. He raised registered swine and cattle, rode his horses, and ran Illini Iris Garden in Monticello.

Steve's hobby and passion was plant hybridizing. He joined the American Iris Society in 1954, so he was a member for sixty years. He was a past RVP of Region 9, a long-time member of the Southern Illinois Iris Society and a charter member of the Prairie Iris Society. He attained Master Judge status in 1971 and Emeritus Judge status in 2001.

Varner hybridized and registered forty-five daylilies and one hundred twenty-seven irises in seven different classifications. He introduced one hundred eleven irises to commerce. His first registrations were in 1955 with his first introduction in 1959, 'Purple Heart' a violet or light purple TB. It won his first HM.

His last three introductions were in 1994 and included his only species introduction, 'Illini Fountain' a lactea from seed collected near Budapest, Hungary. It won an AM in 1999. His only MDB, 'Bantam' (1985), was in my garden for years. It is a Greenlee SDB seedling that was selfed and consistently has grown under seven inches with a wide flared form. This won an AM in 1992. Varner introduced three SDBs including 'Betty Wood' (1979) which won an AM in 1985. He also introduced three BBs which won two HMs. He received the Distinguished Service Award from the Siberian Iris Society in 1985 and the prestigious AIS Hybridizers Award in 1995.

Most of his introductions were TBs (51) for which he earned 20 HMs and one AM with 'Miss Illini' (1966) in 1969; and Siberians (53) where he had his most success with 35 HMs, two Morgan Awards (equivalent to AM) for 'Ann Dasch' and 'Tealwood' and two AMs and Morgan-Wood Medals for 'Dance Ballerina Dance' (1983) in 1989 and 'King Of Kings' (1983) in 1990.

His hybridizing friend Harley Briscoe introduced the Siberian 'Steve Varner' (1978) in his honor. It won the Morgan Award in 1982 and the Morgan-Wood Medal in 1987, a fitting tribute to a hero and great hybridizer. ❀

By Jim Morris

Steve Stone
(1944 - 2014)



Steve Stone of Memphis, Tennessee, Region 7, passed away at the age of 70. Over a twenty year period, Steve was a driving force and known as Mr. Iris in the west Tennessee area.

Our first meeting was quite auspicious. I knew nothing about irises, but grew a few in my home garden. I heard about an iris show happening in our Germantown, Tennessee community, and thought it might be a fun Saturday activity to attend one, just to see what all this was about. Steve Stone greeted me at the door of the show. He was club president of the West Tennessee Iris Society. Little did I know that it would be a pivotal day. I have been consumed by tall bearded irises ever since. Steve and the other club members made my wife and me feel welcome; but more than that, shared their love for irises. I couldn't imagine anyone being that passionate for a specific flower,

but Steve was that guy.

I found out later that Steve was a mover and a shaker in the AIS Region 7, to which the club belonged. As a judge, he visited other clubs' shows and was active at regional meetings. He loved to interact with the public, teaching gardening techniques, show grooming tips and everything else associated with making the tall bearded irises "super good" as he was fond of saying. We became best friends with Steve and his wife, Jean, travelling throughout Tennessee and Kentucky as a judging foursome.

In 1998, the 2002 AIS convention was to be in Memphis and Steve offered to be co-chair for the guest gardens of the event with his wife. He would go on to supervise the establishment of nine guest gardens in the Memphis area, interfacing with hybridizers and wannabes, getting the irises shipped and installed. Our own West Tennessee Iris Garden in Germantown got extra attention from Steve as it would show off the guest clumps prominently, but also feature our own 300+ clumps of irises. Steve was a driving force in the educational goal of that garden, which was to showcase the newest (less than five years in commerce) tall bearded varieties. When the guest irises and seedlings were added, it was quite a show. When the convention visitors attended, they were amazed. That year, we hit peak perfectly as the convention was underway. Also, Steve had 400+ clumps of guest irises at his home in southeast Memphis. I especially remember a row of fifteen or twenty clumps of Dave Niswonger's Halo series, all lined up with hundreds of bloomstalks. Joe Ghio's new introduction 'Starring' (Ghio 2000), was the hit of the garden tour that year, with more than fifteen bloomstalks! The Stone garden was written up by Jeanne Plank in the October 2002 *AIS Bulletin*.

Steve touched many lives through his activities with Central Church and in the community as a master gardener and compelling water color artist. Steve was a retired commodities broker, who upon learning he had terminal cancer, fought bravely through treatments, continuing to be active with iris as long as he could. Amazingly, during his illness, he became an author and penned a trio of western novels, which earned much praise. The first two, *Pogonip* and *Honey Hole* were successes. The third will be published posthumously in 2015.

O'Steve, as he had become known to family and friends, made his mark on the iris world and will not be forgotten here in our Tennessee/Kentucky region or nationally. We honor his memory here. ♣

By Chuck Winters

Connect with AIS!



Iris Parts: Diversity in the Genus

Part 3 – Flowers

TEXT AND PHOTOS BY KENNETH WALKER, CALIFORNIA

This is the third article in a series of four that are based on a program I gave for the Sidney B. Mitchell Iris Society. This article looks at the diversity of forms among iris flowers. Watch for the remaining article about parts of Iris in a future issue: Part 4: Reproduction.



All *Iris* flowers naturally have three-fold symmetry. Each species produces something in the way of three outer petals, the falls, three inner petals, the standards, and three style arms with petal-like crests on the tips. In Figure 1, falls, standards, and style crests are labeled for two species. One species is *Iris koreana* (above left), a small plant in the series Chinenses with relatively flat yellow blooms. The other is *Iris munzii* (above right), a Pacific Coast Native Iris with more three dimensional blue flowers.

Figure 2 (middle right) shows two blooms of *Iris brevicaulis*; this is a Louisiana Iris that grows along much of the Mississippi River. The first bloom is fully open and the second is a partly open bud. The second picture shows how the falls form the outer part of the bud with the standards and other flower parts inside.

Most iris are pollinated by insects that use the falls as landing sites. Some irises have special structures on their falls to attract these insects. Bearded irises, like *Iris trojana* (bottom right) Figure 3, use a fuzzy patch near the base of their falls as a landing signal.



There are other irises that use crests as landing signals (different from the crests on the style arms). These crests consist of one or more raised ridges running lengthwise near the base of the falls. Crests are demonstrated in Figure 4 by *Iris cristata* ‘Powder Blue Giant’ (Sam Norris by Jan Sacks/Marty Schafer 1997). *I. cristata* is a small woodland iris that grows in Mid-Atlantic States in the US.

The Oncocylus irises from arid regions of the Middle East and somewhat northward, have beards but also often have dark signal spots that are more prominent than the beards. An example is *Iris sari* as shown in Figure 5. It is believed that these spots look like safe holes to spend the night to male solitary bees. As you can see, there is indeed a hole between the haft of the fall and the style arm above it.

Some irises have simple landing strips. Figure 6 shows the yellow stripe presented by *Iris musulmanica*, a Spuria species native to the Caucasus into the northern Middle East.

There are iris mutations that produce flowers violating the rule of three falls, three standards, and three style arms. ‘Colchesterensis’ (R. Wallace & Co 1910) has six falls, no standards, and typically four or five style arms. This cultivar of *Iris laevigata* is shown in Figure 7A. Contrast it with ‘Seiran’ (Clarence Mahan 1993) in Figure 7B, a variety of the species with a typical complement of flower parts.

Standards vary widely in size and form throughout the genus. Oncocylus irises frequently have tall broad standards. This is demonstrated in Figure 8A by *Iris damascena* and in Figure 8B by *Iris kirkwoodii*.

Iris flowers with narrow standards are shown in Figure 9. Figure 9A shows *Iris fulva*. It is a Louisiana Iris with a range similar to that of *Iris brevicaulis*. Other than its near relative, *Iris nelsonii*, it is the only true iris to naturally display a distinct orange-red color, making it particularly attractive to hummingbirds over insects. The photo shows the flower on the first day with the standards “standing up”. On subsequent days, the standards recurve to match the falls. Figure 9B shows the Sino-Siberian (also known as a 40-chromosome Siberian), *Iris bulleyana*. Its standards remain relatively upright.

Some irises have standards that show up only on close examination. One example is the water loving iris, *Iris pseudacorus* (the European Yellow Flag Iris), as shown in figure 10A. It has the distinction of being the only iris that is widely viewed as an invasive weed, frequently choking shallow water environments. Another iris with small standards is *Iris setosa*; its distinction is that of being the only iris that naturally grows in both the old world and the new: its range spans the Bering Sea. Figure 10B shows a white variety with particularly tiny, pointed standards.

As it turns out, not all standards “stand”. Juno irises typically have small standards that point down below the falls. This is demonstrated by *Iris acheri* ‘Turkish Ice’ in Figure 11A and *Iris narbuti* in Figure 11B.

Irises with inconspicuous standards sometimes compensate with particularly showy style crests standing over the falls. This is demonstrated in Figure 12A by the Juno, *Iris bucharica* ‘Swan Wings’, with its crossing style crests. Figure 12B shows the frequently grown small spring bulb, *Iris danfordiae*; its standards entirely inconspicuous, but its style crests are very much like petals.

A few more flower parts will be explored in the next article on reproduction. ❀



Figure 4 *Iris cristata* ‘Powder Blue Giant’



Figure 5 *Iris sari*



Figure 6 *Iris musulmanica*



Figure 7A *Iris laevigata* 'Colchesterensis' -
Figure 7B *Iris laevigata* 'Seiran'



Figure 8A *Iris damascena* - Figure 8B *Iris kirkwoodii*



Figure 9A *Iris fulva* - Figure 9B *Iris bulleyana*



Figure 10A *Iris pseudacorus* - Figure 10B *Iris setosa*



Figure 11A *Iris acheri* 'Turkish Ice' - Figure 11B *Iris narbuti*



Figure 12A *Iris bucharica* 'Swan Wings'



- Figure 12B *Iris danfordiae*

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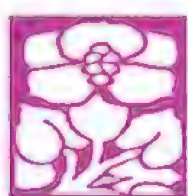
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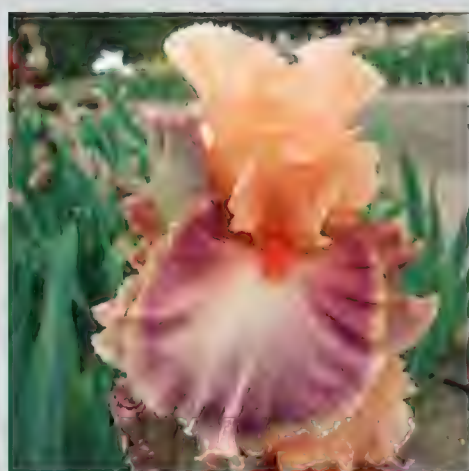
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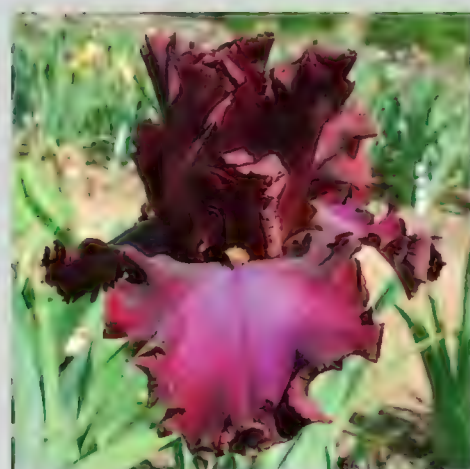
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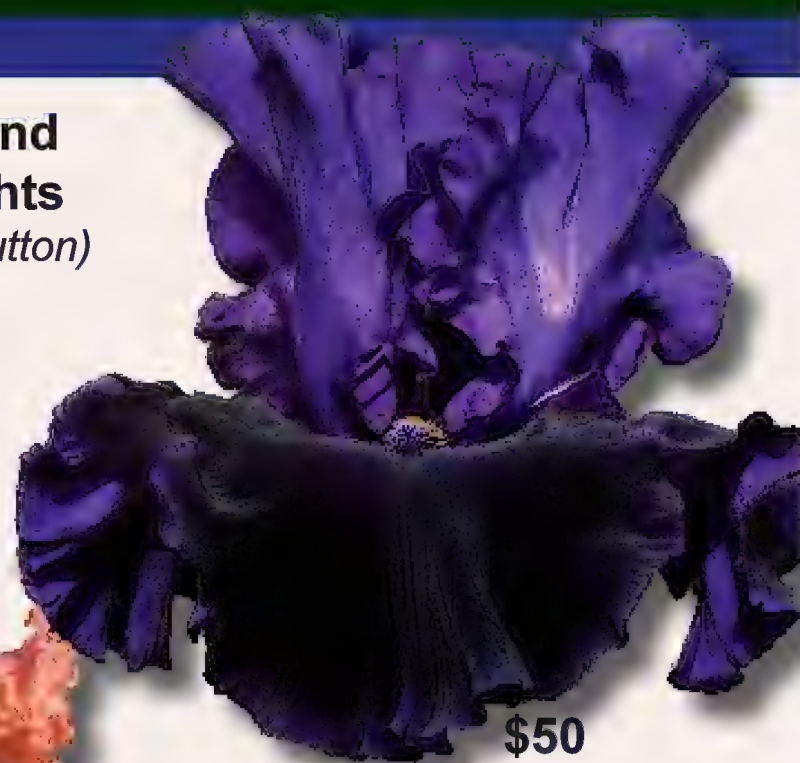
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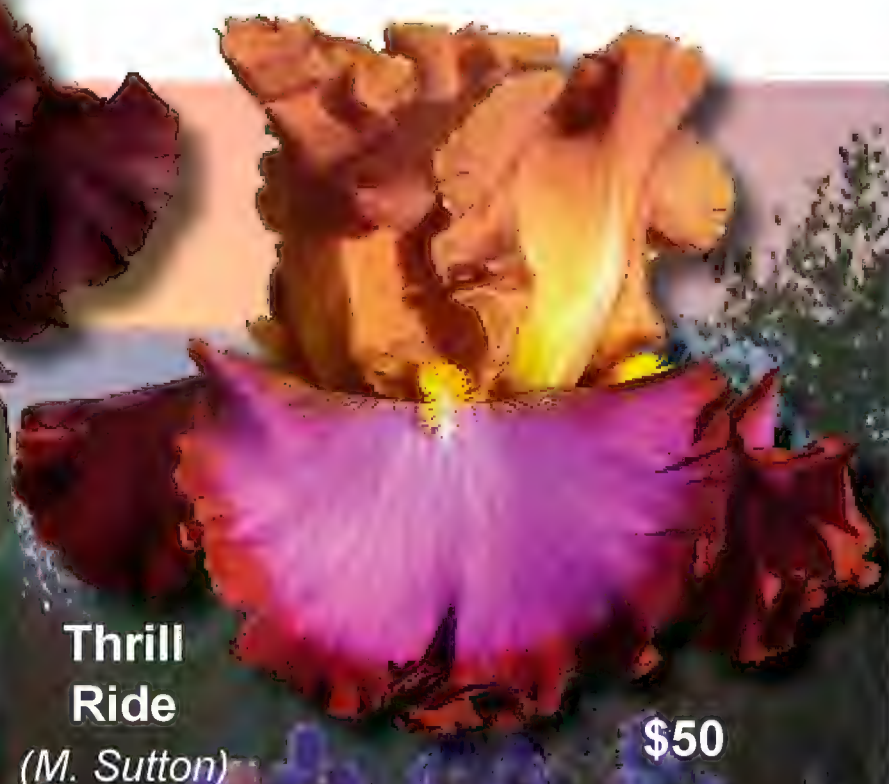
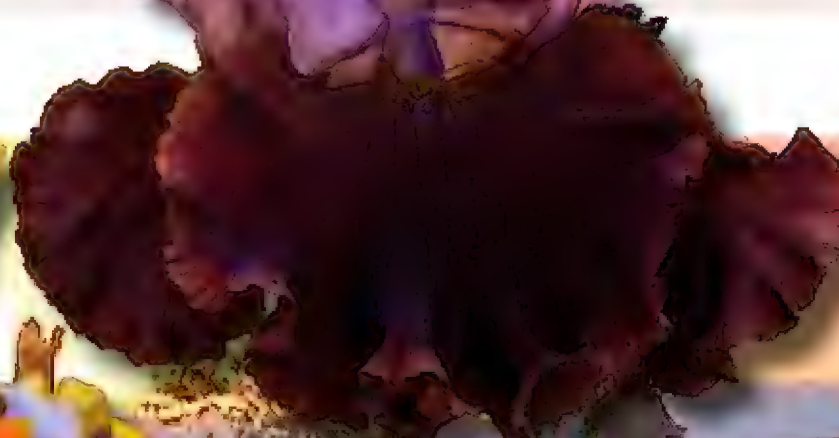
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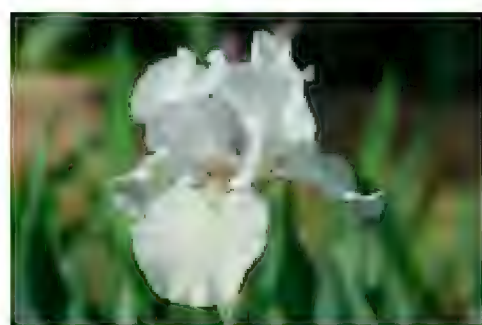
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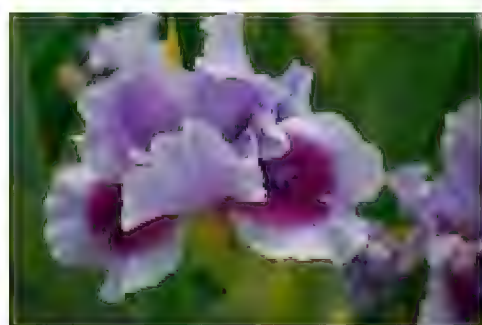
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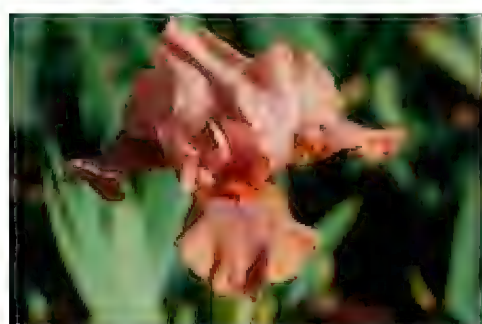
Minnie Ned (SDB)
(Don Spoon) \$20



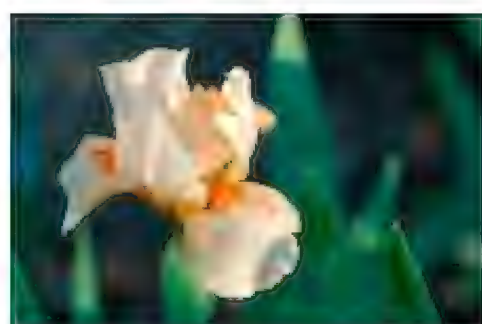
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(K. Fisher '15) \$20.00



MDB - FAIRY FIREFLY
(T. Aitken '15) \$18.00

CATALOG \$4.00

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822 Rodney Vista Blvd., Cape Girardeau, MO 63701
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'Raising the Roof' (Niswonger '15) Spuria, Sp3-08: 'Wild at Heart' X Unknown (Probably a self). 34 inches (86 cm) tall, Midseason,. It's a little more "wild" than its sib 'Going Wild in Missouri'. Essentially the same color, but more intense colors of maroon standards and gold in the falls infused with maroon. Fertile both ways. \$35.00 (photo right)



'Threshold Moment' (Niswonger '15) Spuria Sldg. Sp10-09: 'Sunrise In Missouri' X Unknown, 32 inches (81 cm) tall. This is a deep gold in color approaching orange and a bit close to orange than 'Missouri Orange'. Fertile both ways \$40.00 (photo left)

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Giving Birth to an Iris Library

A Library of Iris Literature, including Articles, Books, and Catalogs

BY BOB PRIES

When is a library actually born? I suppose when it opens its doors! You could say the online iris library was born on January 25, 2015. That was when I finally put up the icon of my bookshelf at the bottom of the main page of the Iris Encyclopedia. Many people never scroll down a web page so there is probably a world of the Encyclopedia that is unknown to them. But alas it is there and open for business.

The library had an extremely long gestation period. When Ethel Ansom Peckham completed the 1939 *Checklist*, she, in effect, created a bibliography of all the iris literature that described the approximately 19,000 names listed there. Unfortunately, the referenced catalogs and iris literature were not to be found in any one library; but at its publication, hers was a bibliography of all iris references. I hope Ethel would be proud that we are finally providing iris lovers with the sources she documented.



The library is, of course, small compared to its ultimate size. At its birth it has only 750 items: about 160 of those are historic catalogs about half of which came from the Anne and Mike Lowe catalog collection and the other half from the Biodiversity Heritage Library donated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The other five hundred are articles from horticultural and botanical journals mostly published prior to 1930. There are a potential four thousand items including hundreds of catalogs. All of this will be searchable as it is integrated into the AIS Encyclopedia.

The idea of this library was conceived in 1920 when John Wister was starting the AIS. Immediately, he proclaimed that AIS should create a library that would include all iris information from newspaper clippings, to articles from magazines, to catalogs, to photographs and lantern slides. And he envisioned this to be a traveling library that would be accessible to every irisarian. Today his dream is becoming a reality with the technology of the internet. The AIS physical library is now becoming virtual and available to thousands of people from their home computers.

The library need not be just history. It should also record the Iris world as it exists today. Schreiner's and Cooley's have agreed to have their catalogs archived in the AIS Encyclopedia Library. Hopefully every hybridizer and nursery will agree to allow the AIS to publish their old and new catalogs.

As the library grows, it will house the answers to more and more questions. One may already find various points of view on culture and hybridizing. To make the library grow we need volunteers to help add the publications to the library. For articles that are presently just sheets of paper we need volunteers to enter them into the computer. We need editors that could upload images, edit pages, and write original copy. The library will grow as fast as we grow it. You can help the AIS move into the future as a source of all information about iris. 🌸



Marrying Kind



Celtic Tartan



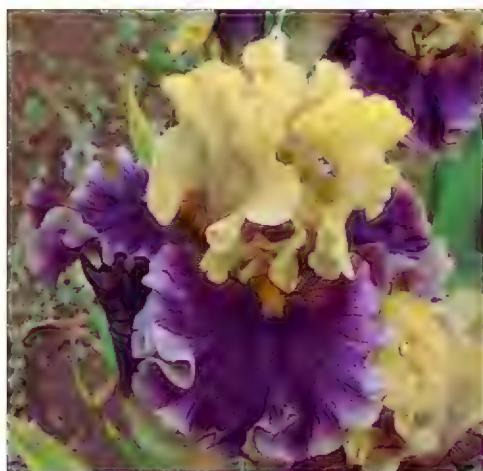
Fire Danger



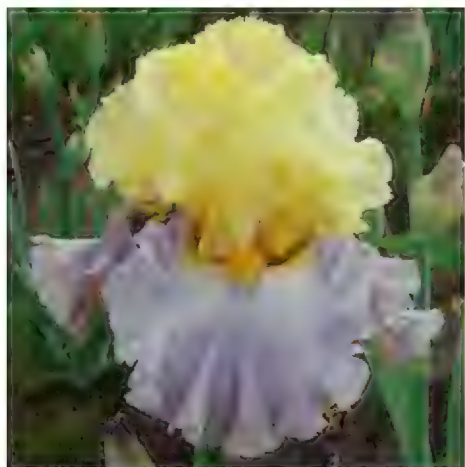
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Collecting in the Altai

PHOTOS AND TEXT BY JASON DELANEY, MISSOURI

Jason Delaney is the North Gardens Supervisor and Bulb Collections Specialist, Missouri Botanical Garden, Saint Louis

Missouri Botanical Garden horticultural staffers Kyle Cheesborough and Jason Delaney recently participated in a near month-long collaborative exploration and plant collecting expedition of the Altai region of southern Siberia, Russia hosted by the Central Siberian Botanical Garden of Novosibirsk, and the Moscow Main Botanical Garden of Moscow, Russia. The Greater Saint Louis Iris Society, a long-time supporter of the Missouri Botanical Garden's efforts locally and abroad, provided sponsorship for the expedition through funds raised during their popular annual iris sale of offsets of the Garden's iris collection. The purpose of the trip was to develop stronger ties with these Russian institutions, and to collect data and plant specimens from throughout this vast region rich in unique ornamental flora of strong conservation value. A hopeful outcome of the trip was to find and collect specimens of *Iris*, of which twenty species occur in this region.

The Altai Mountains, rising to over 4,200 meters and spanning the semi-autonomous Russian states of the Altai Republic and Altai Kray in the southern-most tip of Siberia, and extending into the geopolitical borders of Mongolia to the east, China to the south, and Kazakhstan to the west are highly diversified both geologically and ecologically. This area is known as the Altai Region (photo on page 3). The total area covers 1,611,457 hectares. The Altai Mountains provide the source of the region's greatest rivers—the Ob and the Irtysh. The region represents the most complete sequence of altitudinal vegetation zones in central Siberia, from steppe, forest-steppe, mixed forest, and subalpine vegetation to alpine vegetation. The site is also an important habitat for endangered animal species such as the snow leopard.¹

The region has a rich cultural heritage. The first humans appeared in the region almost one million years ago, as evidenced by Palaeolithic settlements in the region of Gorno-Altai. The area was part of emerging and collapsing tribal unions, khanates, and the empires of the Scythians, Turks, Uigurs, Yenissey Kirgiz, Kidans, Mongols and Oitrats. From the mid-18th century, the Altai region became part of the Russian Empire. The area today is sparsely populated with local populations of Russians and Altaisky, a Turkish-speaking people,

mainly involved in traditional pastoralism, low-intensity agriculture, hunting and gathering. These people have coexisted with nature for millennia and have a strong affinity with the natural environment.¹ Interestingly, based on DNA research, it is widely accepted that the origins of the indigenous peoples who populate North America, Central America, and South America originated in the Altai region.



Iris ruthenica (Top) and
Lilium martagon var. *pilosiusculum*



The vegetation patterns experienced throughout the expedition were highly varied. The open steppe belt was comprised of low scrub, small shrubbery and woody plants, sparse forbs, succulents, thorns, mat-forming and

tap-rooted plants—from a distance, these areas looked desolate of plant life until the vehicle stopped and the team piled out. Numerous taxa grew within each square meter of ground. *Iris* and *Allium* species were quite common, growing amongst a diverse population of succulent plants. The forest-steppe belt, by far the most advantageous for our collections, featured diverse forbs and woody plants, and the most similar conditions to our own midwest climate. Here, of special interest, seemingly innumerable herbaceous perennials grew, including *Iris ruthenica* (photo top left) in varying stages of flowering to mature seed set, depending on elevation and slope face. Mosquitoes were also rife in this region, but biting flies seemed to be the most challenging aspect of this leg of our journey.

The forest belts, which included chern taiga of mixed *Betula*, *Larix*, *Pinus*, *Picea*, and *Populus* forests, and coniferous mountain taiga of largely *Pinus*, *Picea*, and *Abies* forest, provided yet another fine assortment of herbaceous and geophytic material; notably, here grew abundant populations of *Allium*, *Lilium* (photo bottom left), and *Paeonia*. The high-montane belt, which included snow-packed alpine regions, glotsy (tundra), and cryophyte steppe (semi-arid cold regions), provided low, sparse vegetation such as *Trollius*, *Aquilegia*, *Sedum*, and many species of mosses and lichens.

Of the estimated 2,800 species and sub-species representing 118 families in the Altai flora, 31 families and 10 genera of vascular plants representing 288 species and subspecies are endemic or sub-endemic, bringing conservation concerns to the forefront, especially in a region so intensively grazed. The highest levels of endemism are found in limestone outcroppings, frost-shattered scree, multicolored deposits, and in solonchic grasslands (weakly saline environments). The rich, unique flora—and fauna—of this region, coupled with the need for long-term conservation, has warranted UNESCO granting the Altai Region a World Heritage Site.

The outcome of our expedition ultimately yielded 195 acquisitions, though most were only herbarium vouchers—the season was, unfortunately, too early for seed, as most regions we explored were still in full bloom due in part to a very long winter and late spring. Seventy-two taxa were collected as seed, with many of these now in the queue for propagation at the Missouri Botanical Garden for further study and for use in the Garden's ornamental displays. Fortunately, we were able to return home with *Iris ruthenica*, *I. bloudowii*, and *I. tigridia* among our collections. ❀

¹UNESCO World Heritage Center



Pictures from the expedition: Altai village on the left. Jason taking a photo of a lily on the right. Photos by Jason and Kyle.

Answers to your questions about the 2015 AIS Convention, Part 2

Original article by Bill Rinehart, Oregon, updated by John Ludi

As I dusted off the archives of past Portland Conventions, I came across this article written by Bill Rinehart prior to the 2006 Portland Convention. I have updated the information about the convention booklet to correspond with the 2015 Convention.

What is in the Convention Handbook?

A detailed meeting/activity schedule will be printed in the Convention Handbook.

Garden descriptions: Study the garden descriptions and try to remember something about each garden and your garden hosts. Some or all the members of the host family will meet the bus and be present as you depart. It will be easier to express your genuine appreciation if you can use their names and have some hook on which to begin a conversation. I have a friend who always posted notes of appreciation on returning home after the convention. Copies of photos taken in the garden make great postcards.

Order of garden visitation: Two host gardens are scheduled on each colored route – green, yellow and blue. The route rotation schedule is included for reference.

Cultivar lists: All the guest iris growing in each garden are listed in the booklet. You can make notes on the exceptional cultivars, because you might want to acquire them or vote for them for awards. Not all of the iris growing in a garden are listed; the plants belonging to the garden host are also eligible for trek awards. If you would like to obtain or possibly vote for one of these, you would do well to note their name(s). Make your final choices for award winners as soon as you can after your last garden visit on Saturday.

Since the winners will be announced at the Awards Banquet a very few hours after you have returned to the hotel, it is important that you have completed your ballot and turned it in to the bus captain as you exit the bus.

Awards selected at the convention:

1. Your favorite cultivar bred by a hybridizer working in the host region, i.e, AIS Region 13: Alaska, British Columbia, Oregon, Washington and the Yukon Territory. A red dot will be affixed to the nametag of iris eligible for this award.
 2. Your favorite cultivar bred by a hybridizer working outside AIS Region 13. Again, tags for eligible iris will be consistent through the gardens and different from those eligible for award #1 in that no dot will be affixed to these name tags.
 3. Your favorite Median Iris – Standard Dwarf Bearded (SDB), Intermediate Bearded Iris (IB), Miniature Tall Bearded (MTB), or Boarder Bearded (BB). May be from any hybridizer from any region. Variety does not have to appear in the convention booklet as an official guest iris. It can be the same iris that you voted for in award #1 or award #2.
 4. Your favorite seedling as seen in the convention gardens. May be from any hybridizer from any region. Variety does not have to appear in the convention booklet as an official guest iris. It can be identified under a number or a name that has not been introduced.
 5. Your favorite 15 cultivars. This list is not always announced at the Awards Banquet as there is rarely enough time to count ballots, but it is fun and will be announced at some later date.
-

Convention Headquarters

The Red Lion Hotel On The River, Jantzen Beach-Portland, Oregon is our convention headquarters. This is the same hotel we used for the 2006 National Convention. All of the specially priced rooms for the convention are booked. They still have rooms at their regular rates.

Convention Registration Form

A printable registration form is available on our web site.

The optional tour to Columbia River Gorge and Mt. Hood is still available for an additional cost of \$50 until all spaces are filled. The tour will showcase the magnificent Columbia River Gorge, as well as Oregon's iconic Mt. Hood. You will travel along the Columbia River Highway (I-84), known as a sea level mountain pass stopping at Multnomah Falls, the second highest year-round waterfall in the United States. The tour will also stop at the Bonneville Dam, including the visitor center and fish hatchery before lunch at the Riverside Inn. A complete description is in the Winter 2015 issue of *IRISES* and on the convention website.



www.ais2015portlandconvention.com

2015 AIS Spring Convention “Iris in Wonderland” Portland, Oregon May 18-23

Convention chair: John Ludi

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<kludi@juno.com>

Convention Registrar: Judy Nunn

4728 Jade St NE

Salem, Oregon 97305-3138

phone/fax 503-390-3816

<nunnjk@gmail.com>

All of the latest updates are on the convention website including the registration form, event schedule and details about the tour gardens.

2015 AIS Convention Programs

Wednesday, May 20

SIGNA

Species: Past, Present, and Future

Presenter: Robert Pries

Society For Pacific Coast Native Irises

Using Pacific Coast Irises in Your Rock Garden

Presenter: Kathleen Sayce

Reblooming Iris Society

Rebloomers For Everyone

Presenter: Riley Probst

Social Media – Facebook Workshop

AIS News, Marketing and PR

Presenter: Moderator, Andi Rivarola

Dwarf iris Society

Dwarfs, Past .Present, and Future

Presenter: Robert Pries

Aril Society International

Hybridizing by Caroline Chacon

Presenter: Robert Pries

Society For Siberian Irises

Multi-Petaled Siberians

Presenter: John Coble

Wednesday, May 20 (continued)

Tall Bearded Iris Society

Question and Answer

Panel: Keith Keppel, Barry Blyth, Joe Ghio

Spuria Iris Society

Culture and Care of Spuria Irises

Panel: with Jim Hedgecock as moderator

Thursday, May 21

Society For Louisiana Irises

Beardless Beauty

Presenter: Robert Treadway

Social Media – Iris Encyclopedia Workshop

Encyclopedia Workshop

Presenter: Bob Pries

HIPS

Historic Dwarf and Median Iris, a Microcosm of the Challenges of Iris Preservation

Presenter: Charlie Carver

Judges Training Sessions

Awards & Ballots

Presenter: Judy Keisling

Friday, May 22

Society For Japanese Irises

The New SJI DVD Program

Presenter: John Coble

Space Age/Novelty Section Organization Meeting

The Iris of Lloyd Austin

Presenter: Jean Richter

Judges Training Sessions

Are These Really Rules?

Presenter: Dell Perry

Saturday, May 23, 2015

Median Iris Society

Looking For Love-Finding Fertility in Unexpected Places

Presenter: Paul Black

Franklin Cook's Iris Garden

BY KATHARINE COOK, CALIFORNIA



*"... I truly believe my horticultural interests were foreordained by having been born on Ground Hog Day, 1906. I have been digging holes in the ground ever since. . . what more natural then, that iris became an absorbing hobby . . . I remember vividly when a new introduction named 'Pluie d'Or' came our way, and later the spectacular 'Pink Satin'. And when my father first bloomed 'Jean Cayeux' I was awakened at the crack of dawn to watch it unfold its ravishing petals in the dim light of sunrise. Iris-time was always an exciting time in our family."*⁵

*"Despite all these activities and accomplishments, Franklin's main iris interests were not in the organization, but in the flower. He is best known, of course, for his harmonious arrangements in the garden."*⁶

When my father appeared, of a sudden, home alive from the Pacific in 1944, I was seven years old. His first act was to offer me a gift box which opened to a Chinese scarlet silk crepe scarf, richly figured in flowers. His presence and gift so delighted me, that I at once undid my braids, plaited by mother that morning, tied the scarlet silk around my hair, and took off running around the garden. By then our family had been moved into our new house at 2747 Hurd Ave. in Evanston, Illinois for several years, but I remember nothing of the garden then, save the lawn.

My father was quite a handsome man, tall, extraverted and engaging, with thick black hair, and a yeoman's ruddy complexion. He was known, according to my mother, as the best pediatrician in Evanston.

At five years, I knew nothing of Franklin Cook's enlisting in 1942 as a Navy flight surgeon, nor of his wartime suffering in the Pacific theater. His devotion to his pilots was legendary, and although war stories surfaced, none seemed certain. He fought for better nutrition for his pilots. How highly they regarded him was evidenced by their frequent visits to our home following the war.

From this distance, I imagine his repairing to the iris garden every afternoon as both a welcome return to normal, and his need to heal from the war. In those days, men especially could not speak about war injuries of any kind, and of course, I knew nothing of these. The iris garden was just where he went each day. After a day of medical practice downtown, he repaired to the garden, often returning after dinner, to work under spotlights. His engagement with breeding, the famous harmonies, beauty and balance in his design layouts, his skill as a photographer, devotion and dedication were all enormous.

For me and Davey, we noticed that other kids just had rectangles to mow, whereas the iris beds had to be trimmed with special mowers. I remember sweating with weeding, deadheading, other tasks in the hot humid Evanston summers. Only later, when both he and the garden were gone, did I begin to comprehend the nature and ongoing value of his gift to us all whom he left every day to make his soul medicine.

True to Jesse Wills' comments above, my father's creation was an expression of classic, well thought out harmony in color, and was featured in *House Beautiful* magazine. Iris season drew Mr. Pilkington from England, with his bowler and cane, Geddes Douglas, Jesse Wills, a doctor from horse racing country, whose name I cannot recall and for whom I hand-sewed a toy stuffed horse named "Whirligig." Orville Fay's extensive growing grounds were one block away, and others came from western states, and Evanston. One iris season event, my father flew us in a twin engine plane to Jesse Wills' in Nashville, where we enjoyed the Will's awesome southern hospitality, and our first taste of pecan pie. Those years, 1944-1952, were also synchronous with the gradual onset of Parkinson's disease, apparently aggravated by his volunteering for experiments in air compression as a Navy pilot, which included the gradual paralysis of the right side of his face and right arm.

As his family, we took for granted our vibrant iris garden and all the landscaping with no equal in the town; we did not see it as remarkable. And yet, its life was indelibly imprinted on each who saw, as image, his mandala; each section memorable for its contours, colors, imagery and smells, its own special meaning. Although iris were the featured flower, the lawns, pathway layouts and evergreen borders and flowering trees, provided structure, and lessons in composition, balance and contrast that brought everything into a lively, and fair-beautiful whole. That mandala of color and form, of composition, turns out to have penetrated my psyche so deeply, to have meant so much, that for many years after moving away from Evanston, I dreamt of returning with my mother and brother, to live once more in that house, and restore his garden to its former splendor.

The Landscape Garden Vision

To either side of the tool house, double French lilacs, mixed with singles, heavily perfumed as they can only be in a moist midwestern spring. Following the white picket fence perimeter south, to the west corner, and coming west to each side of the barbecue, were crabapples of several varieties, from white, pink, double, to deep rose, framing the center beds of iris display. From these, my mother made jelly each year. Within the perimeter fencing, enhanced with mid-range trees and shrubs, the iris were planted out in pleasing geometries in beds of rich black, fertile midwest soil. One most striking memory of my father was him kneeling on the ground, working with this incredible soil with his trowel. Growing up in this Illinois plains state, its overpowering contrast of deep dark fertile soil with bare sky to the distant horizon was impressed deeply and memorably on my soul.

The plantings across the front of the house were remarkable, especially in spring, whose coming was celebrated with a succession of forsythia, pussy willow and tulips. In beds before evergreen foundation plantings, across the wide front of the house, my father showed off the latest parrots, and other exotics. To the side, along the cinder alleyway, where Davey and I skinned our knees, were a memorable sprinkling of species tulips. The front yard display of spring tulips remains an Evanston tradition to this day.

The feeling of the garden was a relaxed, but effusive balance, all skillfully and carefully tended. When I reflected on this factor, my father's care of the garden, I realized that one rarely sees a neighborhood, or even botanical and horticultural garden that exhibits the level of care one saw and felt in my father's garden. The evergreens, iris, shrubs, flowering trees, pathways, circles, squares, levels, flagstone, and labels. . .all inviting: a pleasant, unforced geometry. My personal favorite was the barely visible Lilies of the Valley tucked under the lower branches of the Blue Spruce. I especially loved picking these for the corsages I made for my grade school teachers. I noticed as a child that I did develop a kind of peculiar fondness for the iris, could remember many varieties by name, for a long time, such as 'Amigo'(below). 'Pinafore Lass', 'Ola Kala' and others.



Lost on Lake Charlevoix

I understand from a few Iris Society members, that there have been questions about his death. This is what we know: On August 8, 1952, during our family vacation on Lake Charlevoix, Michigan, my father said he was going down to the dock to work on some knots. When he did not return by dark, his absence was reported. I remember awaking in my bed at midnight, knowing he was missing. When morning came, search boats were sent out. His motorboat, Weejin, was found floating empty on the lake. The lake bottom, which is over forty feet near our dock was dragged for several days. Franklin Cook's body was never found. His father, Po*, who had introduced him to iris, came up from Evanston, and cried unashamedly before the assembled family at the loss of his son. Officially his death was determined to be an accidental drowning.

If he had, in fact, planned his own disappearance, as some have speculated, his foresight and courage in doing so were almost beyond belief. In recent years I have had the experience of knowing a man living with Parkinson's through severe crippling to the bitter end, which allowed me to believe something like that might have been possible for my father. But in post-war Evanston, it was not possible for a man, let alone a returning veteran, to talk to anyone about what was going on, what he was dealing with.

Growing up as Franklin Cook's daughter, the main



event, the tragedy of his disappearance when I was fifteen, was terrible. Writing this helps put that event in the perspective of his great qualities, the life and gifts he shared, has been a real treasure for me. Ultimately, it is my appreciation of my father's medicine, his soul mandala, his statement of transcendence, of beauty, and of transformation of that which would live on in the collective consciousness beyond his mortality. Writing this article has allowed me to treasure this even more deeply, and I am very pleased to be able to offer something of its meaning and value to the American Iris Society, which he served so well.

Franklin Cook iris introductions: 'Dianeve' (53 TB); 'Monte Carlo' (53 TB); 'Northwestern' (51 TB); 'Pinafore Lass' (51 TB); and 'Southwestern' (53 TB)

* Roy J. Cook, also an AIS member.

References and Additional Reading

1. *Iridomania, Phases of Iris Fancy*, Dr. Franklin Cook, No. 64 February 1937 p.46
2. *Iris Culture for Amateurs: A Review by Franklin Cook*, AIS Bulletin p.73 No. 69 April, 1938
3. *My Perfect Iris*, Dr. Franklin Cook, AIS Bulletin No. 87 October 1942 p.32
4. *After Three Years*, Dr. Franklin Cook, AIS Bulletin No. 99 November 1945 p.3
5. *Meet Our New Officers: Dr. Franklin Cook, President*, AIS Bulletin No. 105 April 1947 p.6
6. *Recollections of A Friend, Franklin Cook 1938-1952*, Jesse Wills, AIS Bulletin, Number 128, January 1953. Note: 1938-1952 were the years that Jesse Wills (AIS President 1943-46) knew Dr. Franklin Cook (AIS Director 1938-1952 and AIS President 1947-1949), having first met him at the AIS Annual Meeting in Cincinnati, Ohio in 1938. Dr. Cook lived from 1906-1952. Judge Guy Rogers (AIS President 1949-52) succeeded Dr. Cook when Cook resigned his presidency for health reasons.
7. *Dr. Cook Lost on Lake Charlevoix*, AIS Bulletin No. 127 October 1952 p.3
8. *Memories Wanted*, David Cook, AIS Bulletin, Number 234, Summer 1979, page 32
9. *The Franklin Cook Memorial Cup*, W. F. Scott, Jr. AIS Bulletin No. 142 July 1956 p.24
10. *The American Iris Society - 1947-1952*, Guy Rogers, AIS Bulletin, Golden Anniversary Issue, No. 196, January 1970, pages 30-31.

Photos provided by Katharine Cook.

The Franklin Cook Memorial Cup

This award was established by Dr. Franklin Cook in 1947 and was originally known as the President's Cup. In 1952, it was renamed the Franklin Cook Memorial Cup. From 1947 through 1965, there were no restrictions concerning the geographical origination of irises eligible for the Franklin Cook Memorial Cup. In 1966 the current President's Cup was established and first awarded.

All introduced irises seen growing and in bloom in the official tour gardens of the convention are eligible for consideration except irises originated within the host region for that year's national convention by a hybridizer whose garden is included on the official garden tour, regardless of its location. The irises considered need not be official convention guest irises. Each registrant may vote for only one variety and the Franklin Cook Memorial Cup is awarded to the iris receiving the greatest number of votes.

AIS REGIONS-We Need You!

It is about time for us all to head to Portland. It is going to be a magnificent Iris Convention. Last year AIS Regions 1, 4, 6, 7, 9, 10, 13, 15, 17, 18, 21 and 22 all made excellent “Raisin’ Region Baskets”! From those 14 baskets donated by 12 AIS Regions the silent auction raised \$1058 dollars. That was more than 22% of the total raised for AIS by the Dallas Silent Auction! The silent auction really does need your help doing this again. Get your imagination going and make us a basket full of items that represent your AIS region. If you get too much stuff for one basket, split it into two. Again we will make you a colorful poster to display alongside your lovely basket(s). If you have pictures or subjects you would like to have included send them to me at debrastrauss@outlook.com. So please box up your items and bring them to Portland or mail them to John Ludi at the addresses below. It is so much fun to read the posters beside the baskets that have information about each region along with colorful pictures of their gardens, or activities and members. So please have fun and help AIS by donating your time and regional goodie baskets. Thank you. Thank you.

AIS MEMBERS-We Need You Too!

Right now we are running short of your slightly used treasures for the Portland AIS Silent Auction tables. We hope you are still going through all your storage areas, closets and cupboards. Please donate anything that you think needs a new loving home. Remember this is an opportunity to get rid of items and really feel good about it. Thank you ahead of time for your generosity.

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Sandy OR 97055



IRIS HYBRIDIZERS-We Need You Three!

The AIS Silent Auction is also pretty short on donated coupons for our iris loving members to bid on in Portland. We are thankful for your consideration to **donate your iris** in the form of certificates for the silent auction at the upcoming convention. We know you work very hard and long to hybridize beautiful and amazing new iris for us to enjoy. For each iris you are generous enough to donate; I need the following to make the coupon for the silent auction:

1. Your Name
2. Address for winner to mail coupon to
3. Amount of postage to be sent with coupon
4. Deadline for coupon to be sent to you
5. Iris Name, Description and Color photo
6. Garden Logo (if you want it on the coupon)

I will be happy to make the coupons for each iris. Or you can make them and mail them to me at the address above by April 15 or bring them to the convention. Again, I will make colorful posters with your name and garden photos to display with your donations. Please email me at debrastrauss@outlook.com with your donation information. Thank you so much for your help.

Debra Strauss
debrastrauss@outlook.com

TOP DOWN (Nichols 2015)



\$40.00

Stunning novelty beauty. Very ruffled white self with serrated style arms. There is a pale creamy yellow glow surrounding the broad gold and white beards. Fertile both ways. #2010-PPPP TB **Flattie** 36+” M-L (Got Milk X Winter Olympics)

DALLAS DIAMOND JUBILEE (Nichols 2015)



\$40.00

A be-jeweled beauty. Ruffled flowers with white standards with lemon bases and gilded edges. Broad falls have a white undercoating overlaid lemon. Deeper golden lemon lines surround orange-gold beards. $\frac{3}{4}$ of the falls have a neon lilac edge with deeper violet dotting. Purple violet lines are below the beards. Very fragrant. Fertile both ways. Well branched, 12 buds. #18-45 TB 36” M-L
Named for The Iris Society of Dallas 60th Anniversary! (Puccini X Dorothy Devenport)

BOSSIER CITY BLUES (H. Nichols) #13-0 LA 26” E-L **\$25.00**

Tailored violet self with near white edges on standards, falls, and style arms. Gold style signals. Two branches with six buds. BEST seedling 2013 Iris Society of Dallas show. BEST seedling Ft. Worth Iris Society show. Parentage unknown. Fertile both ways.

LITTLE GANGSTER (H. Nichols) #14-31 LA 28” M-L **\$25.00**

Petite flowers have garnet standards with garnet style arms lighter on edges. Falls garnet with gold line signals. Two branches with six buds. Fertile both ways. (Velvet Hookah x Muriel Baucum Begley)

ODDBALL CURIOSITY (H. Nichols) 14-51 LA 32” M-L **\$25.00**

Ruffled standards are grey edged lemon-chartreuse with chartreuse midribs and centers, serrated falls are lemon-chartreuse with darker chartreuse signals washed pale grey. Two branches with six buds. Fertile both ways. (Lafayette Moon x Heather Pryor)

BROADWAY CONTENDER (B. Nichols) #12M69 TB/SA 36” M-L **\$40.00**

Ruffled yellow self w/ darker hafts. Orange beards end in large yellow flounces. Well branched/ 7 buds (Acapulco Sunset X Mesmerizer)

CASCADIAN MASTERPIECE (H. Nichols) #18-48 TB 36” M-L **\$40.00**

Magnificent ruffled blocky chalk white flowers with gold hafts and beards. Well branched, 8+ buds, pod fertile only. (Sea Power X Winter Olympics)

CELESTIAL HORIZON (B. Nichols) #16-14 TB/SA 40" M-L **\$40.00**
Gigantic laced dauphin violet neglecta with deeper midribs and lighter hafts. Fuzzy orange and dauphin violet beards end in violet horns. Well branched, 8+ buds, fertile both ways. (((Honky Tonk Blues X (Boogie Woogie x Silverado) X Mesmerizer)))

COFFEE HOUSE CHATTER (H. Nichols) #12M51 TB 36" M-L **\$40.00**
Large smooth mocha-brown self with over lapping falls having violet lines below mocha-brown beards. Well branched, 8+ buds, fertile both ways. (Into the Wilderness X Phantom Planet)

CONFEDERATE CREED (H. Nichols) #08-1 TB 32" M-L **\$40.00**
Confederate grey on white plicata with orange and white beards. Well branched, 7 buds, fertile both ways. (River Jordan X Confederate Soldier)

CREDIBLE WITNESS (H. Nichols) #18-99 TB 36" M-L **\$40.00**
Very beautiful ruffled white flowers with yellow hafts markings and yellow and white beards. Well branched, 8+ buds, pod fertile only. (Carriage Trade X Winter Olympics)

GRAND COTILLION (H. Nichols) #2011-40 TB 36" M-L **\$40.00**
Medium sized flowers are vibrant dark yellow with orange-yellow beards. Well branched, 8+ beards, fertile both ways. (Oklahoma Sunshine X Phantom Planet)

GRAND REVIEW (H. Nichols) #2010-CCCC TB 36" M-L **\$40.00**
Impressive ruffled flowers are white with yellow hafts and coral beards. Well branched, 7+ buds, fertile both ways. (Cinnamon Sun X White Hot)

HONKY TONK RUMBLE (H. Nichols) #2010-BBB TB 36" M-L **\$40.00**
Ruffled flowers have honey-brown standards with honey midribs. Blended falls are copper honey-brown with deep yellow hafts and orange beards. Well branched, 8+ buds, fertile both ways. (Frontier Cowboy X Fireside Glow)

POWERHOUSE SEQUEL (H. Nichols) #2014-2A TB 36" M-L **\$40.00**
A wonderful blending of many colors. Ruffled standards are majolica yellow with chartreuse midribs. Broad falls are red-brown with radiating majolica lines throughout and across the hafts. Big gold beards. Well branched, 7 bus, fertile both ways. (Acapulco Sunset X Wardancer)

SAFARI ADVENTURE (H. Nichols) #19-67 TB 36" M-L **\$40.00**
Very pretty reverse mauve medium brown bi-tone with gold beards. Well branched, 7 buds, fertile both ways. ((Ferrous Fantasy X 9525E (Lillian Lee x Acapulco Sunset))

SOUTHWEST SWEETHEART (A. Pyburn) #08-6-10 TB 36" E-L **\$40.00**
Elegantly ruffled reverse blue bi-tone with large fuzzy tangerine beards having lighter icy blue ends tipped tangerine. Well branched, fertile both ways, 7-10 buds. (Stand In Awe X Dance Recital) **FIRST WINNER** of the Zurbrigg-Mahan seedling cup at the 2014 AIS convention in Dallas, Texas

HILLCREST IRIS GARDENS
Hooker T. & Bonnie J. Nichols
3365 Northaven Road
Dallas, Texas 75229
214.352.2191

Postage: \$12 Louisiana irises. Orders for Louisiana irises are shipped separately from bearded. Bearded iris orders: \$12 + \$.50 for every additional plant over 6. Texas residents please add 8.25% sales tax

PICTURES ARE AVAILABLE ONLINE AT: www.HillcrestIris.com

Gibson Plicatas

Create Modern

My early strategy to create tall bearded reblooming iris was to cross like with like. My actions were mostly done out of necessity. Less than a dozen reliable cool season rebloomers resided in my garden. According to the late Dr. Raymond G. Smith, the odds were not in my favor to find viable seedlings. "It would seem logical, assuming like produces like, that the crossing of two reliable reblooming irises of the same chromosome pattern would produce rebloomers. In general this is true, but unfortunately the numbers that may be expected to result from such a cross is rather low."¹

Smith used statistical analysis to support this conclusion in his AIS *Bulletin* article entitled *Differences Among Rebloomers*. He compared using non-rebloomer 'Tiffany' (H.P. Sass, 1938) and reliable old rebloomer 'Martie Everest' (Kirk-McDade, 1935). After crunching the numbers, Dr. Smith concluded Martie Everest was the superior parent to find fall bloomers. He may have been forced to change his mind after introducing 'Purple Duet' (R.G. Smith, 1966) and 'Replicata' (R.G. Smith, 1966) with 'Tiffany' in each pedigree through 'Gibson Girl' (J. Gibson, 1949). (Photo by M. Unser on right)

After the *Bulletin* article was published, Raymond Smith was joined in Bloomington, Indiana by a graduate student, Lloyd Zurbrigg from Ontario, Canada. During his studies for a doctorate in music at Indiana University, Lloyd worked alongside Smith, and the pair shared tall bearded rebloom seedlings. After graduation, Zurbrigg accepted a professorship at Radford College in Virginia. The move would pay handsome dividends for his breeding program for reliable cool season rebloomers.

'Purple Duet' would figure in 'Amy' (Zurbrigg, 1975), 'Goliath's Mate' (Zurbrigg, 1971), 'Perfume Counter' (Zurbrigg, 1972), 'Violet Miracle' (Zurbrigg, 1979) and 'Violet Supreme' (Zurbrigg, 1971). 'Replicata' could be found in 'Grand Baroque' (Zurbrigg, 1969) and 'Da Capo' (Zurbrigg, 1969). Grand Baroque x Amy leads us

to 'I Do' (Zurbrigg, 1974). 'I Do' x 'English Cottage' gave us 'Immortality' (Zurbrigg, 1982). The impact of 'Gibson Girl' was an important one for rebloom.

The late Jim Gibson decided to dedicate his tall bearded iris hybridizing to improve the plicata pattern. According to Jim's recollections, early hybrid varieties sported, "straight hanging, narrow, almost irretrievably pinched falls, and narrow, sometimes gaping standards."² The late Professor Sidney Mitchell urged Gibson to develop his own line since there was ample room for progress. After a few years, the California breeder found a signature seedling to form a foundation for hybridizing.

'Gibson Girl' was a combination of 'Tiffany' and 'Madame Louis Aureau' (Cayeux, 1934) featuring pinkish mulberry with deep rose peppering on cream ground coloring. Both parents were plicatas. The definition for this flower type, according to Dr. William Shear in the *Gardeners Iris Book*, is "a white or light yellow ground color with darker markings of red, blue or violet applied around the edge of each petal. The markings often look like stitching since the color concentrates at the ends of the petal's veins. In many plicatas, the darker color is so generously supplied that the standards show little if any ground color, which appears only as a spot on the falls below the beard."³

Keith Keppel observed in *Some Notes on the Gibson Plicatas*, that 'Tiffany' with bronzy markings on a creamy yellow ground was hardy and vigorous. 'Madame Louis Aureau', French Dykes Medal winner in 1934, was a bearded iris ahead of its time. Well-formed flowers had a silvery white ground sanded and washed with rosy heliotrope. The only drawback was short bloom stalks. 'Gibson Girl' was surely a progenitor for future plicata breeding, but its parents' rebloom genes would consistently show up in future Gibson seedlings and named varieties.

How, you ask? The answer lies in Jim's breeding strategy based on further advice by Sidney Mitchell. "My breeding line should be used sparingly with any outcross



Rebloomers

BY MIKE LOCKATELL, VIRGINIA



since these attempts would most likely repeat or set more firmly those faults already in abundance in plicatas of the day.”⁴ ‘Kilt Lilt’s’ (J. Gibson, 1970) family tree illustrates this point. Keppel observes, “If all the branches of the tree were extended to the original irises used to start the line, you would find ‘Firecracker’ (Hall, 1943) at least eleven times, ‘Sacramento’ (Mohr-Mitchell, 1929) twenty-one times each, ‘Madame Louis Aureau’ fifty-two times, ‘Siegfried’ (H.P. Sass, 1936), twenty times and ‘Tiffany’ and ‘Orloff’ (H.P. Sass, 1937) (counting the times they appear behind ‘Firecracker’ also) sixty-two and thirty times respectively.”⁵ ‘Kilt Lilt’ won the Dykes Medal in 1976. (Photo by R. Probst on left)

The next chapter in the Gibson plicata rebloom story occurred with the introduction of ‘Halloween Party’ (J. Gibson, 1970) in Virginia by Lloyd Zurbrigg’s Avonbank Iris Gardens. Jim’s tall bearded seedling somehow found its way to Radford for testing and breeding. Rebloom was grateful for this hybridizing exchange. Keppel recalled, “(At one time, when Cooley’s Gardens was introducing the earlier Gibson varieties) Rholin Cooley commented that off season bloom did not fit in well with commercial summer/fall shipments, so Jim made a conscious effort at that point to purge his seedlings of all those which rebloomed!”⁶ ‘Halloween Party’s’ ruffled flowers have rich yellow standards with light mahogany veins. Falls feature mahogany spots on the inside of a yellow rim with white ground. ‘Fiji Dancer’ (Zurbrigg, 1976), ‘Lightly Seasoned’ (Zurbrigg, 1979) and ‘Spirit of Memphis’ (Zurbrigg, 1976) had the Gibson guest seedling in their parentages.

‘April Melody’ (J. Gibson, 1968) was a major color break in the Gibson breeding program. A last chance cross after ten years and ten thousand seedlings resulted in a plicata with lavender pink ground with deeper lavender markings and an elusive tangerine beard. In a manuscript entitled *My Twenty Five Years with Iris*, Lloyd Zurbrigg mentions ‘April Melody’ in a list of once blooming tall bearded irises being used for rebloom breeding at Avonbank Iris Gardens. ‘Gibson Girl’ was in its heritage thirteen times. According to Keith Keppel’s count, ‘Mind Reader’ (Keppel, 1992) (Photo by R. Probst on right) has ‘April Melody’ in the pedigree a whopping thirty-eight times. Northern Virginia’s Dr. Donald Spoon would capitalize on the fall flowering genetics in this Salem, Oregon origination.

A debate raged in the AIS’ Region 4 about the flower description for ‘Clarence’ (Zurbrigg, 1991). (Photo by R. Probst above right). Zurbrigg felt the reliable cool season tall bearded rebloomer with unknown parentage was an amoena luminata plicata. Flowers had white standards tinted violet at the edges. Falls are light blue-violet with white center and a cream beard. Dr. Spoon saw the possibilities in a ‘Clarence’ x ‘Mind Reader’ combination. ‘Daughter of Stars’ (D. Spoon, 2001 TB) received the best traits from both parents. The purple luminata, a finalist for the Dykes Medal and a reliable rebloomer in Zones 5-9 was a major advance for modern hybridizing for fall bloom.



Dr. Lloyd Zurbrigg's last reliable cool season tall bearded introduction before his passing in 2005 was 'Gate of Heaven' (Zurbrigg, 2004). (Photo by M. Lockatell on page 2) Largely overlooked in cultivation and breeding, the medium blue's parentage is 'Clarence' x 'St. Petersburg' (Byers, 1990). After the release of 'Daughter of Stars', Lloyd felt breeding back to 'Clarence' seedlings would bear fruit. In spring 2005, a cross pollination featuring 'Gate of Heaven' x 'Daughter of Stars' was successful. One seedling made the grade with wide falls and ample ruffling. After years of testing, 'Metro Blue' (Lockatell, R. 2013) will be introduced this year. The moorish blue self has seen reliable fall flowering in California, Oregon, Indiana, Virginia and Maryland.

'April Melody's' impact is still being felt in my breeding for reliable tall bearded cool season rebloomers. Zurbrigg TB Re Sdlg. #NN2 or 'Clarence' x 'Matrix' (E. Hall by Zurbrigg, 1991) is a late fall performer with blocky white blooms." Light yellow is found on flower edges and at the base of the standards. Falls have light yellow shoulders and a slight hint of violet on all petals. The major downside was short bloom stalks. Lloyd's seedling was a perfect pollen parent with 'Vapor' (Ghio, 2001). The California tall bearded has white standards. Falls are white washed and lined violet with apricot shoulders. It had a solid Gibson plicata foundation with 'April Melody', 'Osage Buff' (J. Gibson, 1973) and 'Columbia the Gem' (J. Gibson, 1982) in the lineage through countless generations of Ghio and Keppel breeding. One of the two surviving seedlings has medium sized soft yellow flowers with pink shoulders and a tangerine beard. Lockatell TB Sdlg.#20565 does not rebloom. Lockatell TB Re Sdlg.#20734 or 'Gate of Heaven' x Zurbrigg TB Re Sdlg.#TT 109 is a two-toned yellow with consistent August flowering despite Virginia summer heat and dryness. Cross pollinations with these children both ways were successful. Maiden bloom is expected this spring. The numbers favor at least one interesting rebloom seedling.



'Autumn Circus' (Hager, 1990) (photo left by M. Lockatell) is 'Space Odyssey' x 'Socialite' X 'Earl of Essex'. Both 'Space Odyssey' and 'Socialite' (Keppel, 1974) have multiple expressions of 'Tiffany' in their backgrounds. 'Earl of Essex' (Zurbrigg, 1980) has 'Purple Duet' and 'Replicata' two times; therefore, 'Gibson Girl' is there four times. 'Autumn Circus' is a great example of blending cool season (Zurbrigg) and warm season (Keppel & Hager) rebloom iris.

My mentor and friend made his only fall visit to my Flatrock garden in Powhatan County, Virginia in 2004. Zurbrigg TB Re Sdlg.# VV 101 'Slate Blue' was in bloom. A space ager, its flounces caused the falls to tuck. Lloyd suggested a cross with 'Gate of Heaven' to correct the problem. One non-reblooming seedling from the combination was a short blue with a tangerine beard. Using 'Metro Blue' as a pollen parent with Lockatell TB Sldg.#20513, the combination produced a lavender- violet with a white area under a tangerine beard tipped white. Lockatell TB Re Sdlg.#21013A had mid-September blooms in 2013 and June flowers in 2014.

Even though he was encouraged to ignore rebloom during his fifty plus year breeding career, Jim Gibson irises through Ghio and Keppel plicata lines offer today's rebloom pollen daubers the rare occasion to improve flower form, colors and patterns in modern fall flowering bearded varieties. The opportunity still awaits us. ❀

Special thanks to Keith Keppel for his advice on Gibson plicata pedigrees.

Bibliography

1. Smith, Raymond G. "Differences Among Rebloomers," *Bulletin of the American Iris Society* January 1960, p. 79
2. Gibson, Jim "Plicata Patter," *Bulletin of the American Iris Society*, January 1971, p. 33
3. Shear, William. *The Gardener's Iris Book*, p.27
4. Gibson, Jim "Plicata Patter," *Bulletin of the American Iris Society*, January 1971, p. 33
5. Keppel, Keith, "Some Notes on the Gibson Plicatas," *Bulletin of the American Iris Society*, January 1994, p.27
6. Ibid., p.26-27

Mike Lockatell is currently Eastern Director for the Reblooming Iris Society. His reports on rebloom results and breeding appear in the RIS Reblooming Iris Recorder. Mike has written feature stories on rebloom for the AIS Bulletin and for the HIPS newsletter ROOTS. He has public reblooming iris display beds at various locations in metro Richmond, Virginia. He was recently featured in a November 2014 story on reblooming irises for Distinction Magazine, a quarterly publication for the Virginian-Pilot Newspaper Group in Norfolk, Virginia and was a guest on the popular Richmond Public Broadcasting Station gardening show, Virginia Home Grown (WCVE TV) in late October 2014.

American Iris Society Gardens Program

BY GEORGE BOYCE, DISPLAY AND TEST GARDENS CHAIR

The AIS Gardens Program has been under development for two years. I was privileged to have been a part of this committee since its inception under the direction of Bob Pries, AIS BoD. After discussion of many options and needs, the AIS Gardens Charter was approved in 2013 consistent with the AIS Charter “to manage, consult, enumerate, evaluate, inform, and promote the AIS Garden System.”

The application to become an official AIS Garden is located on the AIS website www.irises.org. Some major qualifications include:

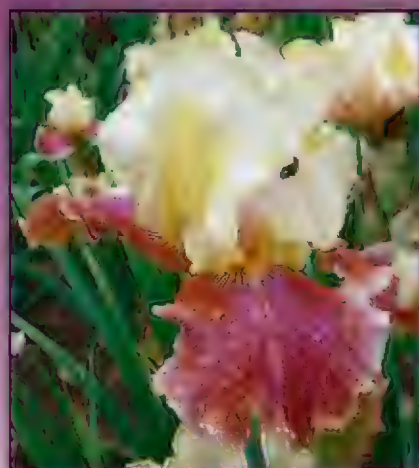
- Gardens must be open during bloom time.
- Gardens must be handicapped accessible or specify limitations.
- The main focus of the garden must be specified (i.e., new, historic, beardless, etc.)
- Additional plants or special features must be listed, such as art or water features.

The official gardens will be listed on the AIS website. All private, institutional and public gardens are urged to apply. AIS Sections can now encourage their membership to utilize this program, freeing their resources for other needs. ♣

Lauer's Flowers 2015 Introductions



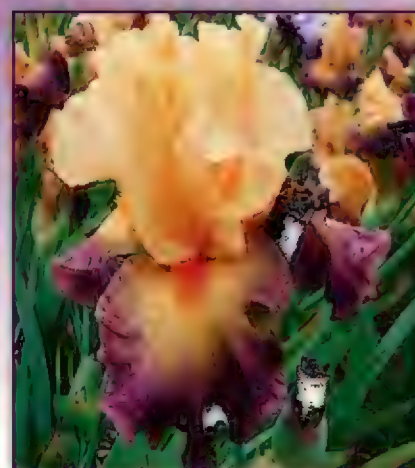
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Request for Guest Bearded Irises

2017 AIS Convention

Des Moines, Iowa

Region 21 will host The American Iris Society National Convention **May 23-27, 2017** (*please note date change from earlier notices*). Convention attendees will tour at six Des Moines area gardens, including two public gardens. Hybridizers of bearded varieties are invited to send rhizomes of recent introductions and seedlings under consideration for introduction. Please observe the following guidelines when sending guest irises as only officially submitted guest irises will appear in the convention booklet.

Up to four rhizomes of each variety will be accepted from **July 27 through August 17, 2015.**

Please submit plants to Pam and Wayne Messer, guest iris chairs.

Shipping address:

Pam and Wayne Messer/AIS 2017
1007 Timberlane Drive
Huxley, IA 50124

Mailing address:

Pam and Wayne Messer/AIS 2017
P.O. Box 64
Huxley, IA 50124

The name of the variety or seedling number should be clearly marked on each rhizome. In addition, the following information should accompany each variety on a separate packing list:

- Hybridizer's name and address
- Name or seedling number of the variety
- Type of iris (Tall Bearded, Border Bearded, etc.)
- Height, color, distinguishing features
- Year of introduction (if applicable)

The packing list should include the contributors email address to receive an electronic receipt. Contributors who do not provide an email will receive a confirmation via mail.

If a guest seedling is later named, it will be the responsibility of the hybridizer to notify the Guest Iris Chair of change. Updates should include name and corresponding seedling number. Please send updates or direct inquiries about guest irises to Pam and Wayne Messer (wrmesser@gmail.com).

Shortly before the convention, contributors will be asked for instructions regarding disposition of the plants. Failure to reply by April 1, 2017 will be interpreted as permission to destroy all seedlings, and distribute named varieties, one to each host garden and the rest as determined by the Convention Committee. *No rhizomes will be offered for sale on the internet or other means which compete with sales by the contributors.* Guest irises returned will be sent freight paid, except for foreign addresses.

The Convention Committee and the owners of the host gardens will strictly adhere to the Code of Ethics as printed in the *AIS Convention Handbook*. The Convention Committee and host gardens will not be responsible for losses beyond their control.

“Medians Rule Supreme in ‘17”

2017 Median Iris Mini-Convention

The Iris Growers of Eastern Indiana, Indiana Daylily and Iris Society, Region 6 and the Median Iris Society, Section of the American Iris Society, will host a Median Iris Mini-Convention May 18-20, 2017.

Convention attendees will tour five gardens and a Purdue University Experimental Agriculture Farm. Hybridizers of median iris, including arilbred medians, are invited to send rhizomes of recent introductions and seedlings under consideration for introduction.

Please observe the following guidelines when sending guest irises as only officially submitted rhizomes will appear in the *AIS Convention Handbook*.

Up to 3 rhizomes of each variety, with a limit of 20 varieties per hybridizer, will be accepted from July 15 to August 15, 2015.

Please ship plants to:
Chuck Bunnell
7941 Peshewa Dr.
Lafayette, IN 47905

The name of the variety or seedling number should be clearly marked on each rhizome. In addition, the following information should accompany each variety on a separate packing list:

- 1) Hybridizer's name and address
- 2) Name or seedling number of the variety
- 3) Type of iris (MDB, SDB, IB, MTB, or BB)
- 4) Height, color, distinguishing features (a picture would be nice)
- 5) Year of introduction, if applicable

The packing list should include the hybridizer's email address to receive an electronic receipt. Others will receive a receipt via USPS.

If a guest seedling is later introduced, it will be the responsibility of the hybridizer to notify the guest iris chair of the change. Updates should include the name of the iris and corresponding seedling number.

Contact Chuck Bunnell: <whozher@mintel.net>

REQUEST FOR GUEST IRIS, BEARDED AND BEARDLESS 2017 REGION 15 TREK

**Presented by the Hi-Desert Iris and Daylily Society
Dan Dourney, President**

The Hi-Desert Iris and Daylily Society will present the Regional Trek of Region 15 of the American Iris Society to be held on April 21-23, 2017. Plantings of the iris in six gardens will be completed by December 30, 2015. The gardens are located in the Lancaster/Palmdale portion of Los Angeles County, California. Hybridizers are invited to provide rhizomes of bearded Iris. Please follow the instructions below when sending guest irises as only officially submitted guest irises will appear in the Trek Booklet.

CONTACTS:

Richard B. Jamison, Chairman, digdeeper_1@msn.com phone 661-940-6382, cell phone 661-361-9550
Dan Dourney, President, dourney@verizon.net phone 661-722-9541

INSTRUCTIONS:

The provided iris should be in groups of up to six rhizomes of a recently introduced named iris or a numbered seedling. The iris will be accepted until November 30, 2015.

Please ship to:

Hi-Desert Iris And Daylily Society,
in care of: Richard B. Jamison,
47540 93rd St. West,
Lancaster, CA 93536-8607.

Please include the following information:

1. The name of the variety or seedling number should be clearly marked on each rhizome.
2. In addition, the following information should accompany each variety on a separate packing list:
 - a. Hybridizer's name, address, e-mail address, and telephone number.
 - b. Name or seedling number of the variety.
 - c. Type of *Iris* (tall bearded, and/or others).
 - d. Height, color, distinguishing features.
 - e. The packing list should include the email address of the contributor, for you to receive an electronic receipt. Lack of an email address will result in contributors receiving a mailed receipt.
 - f. Please provide instructions for the disposition of all your rhizomes upon completion of the Trek. Failure to do so shall be interpreted as permission to destroy all the seedlings. The remaining rhizomes will be distributed as follows: One to each guest garden and the remainder will be distributed as per the Trek Committee.

We recognize that the rhizomes are your property but we also know that a great deal of expense and effort have gone into growing and displaying your iris. You can request that all of the rhizomes be returned and we will comply upon receipt of paid shipping costs based upon the approximate weight of the shipment. Should you decide that we may distribute the named rhizomes, we shall guarantee that none of the rhizomes will be sold on the internet or by other means where we would be in direct competition with you.

This committee and the guest gardeners will strictly adhere to the Code of Ethics as printed in the AIS *Convention Handbook*. The Trek Committee and host gardens will not be responsible for losses beyond their control.

Richard B. Jamison, 2017 Trek Chairman

REQUEST FOR GUEST BEARDLESS IRISES



2018 AIS/SLI CONVENTIONS IN NEW ORLEANS, LA

The greater New Orleans iris society will host the American Iris Society and the Society for Louisiana irises conventions from April 8-14, 2018.

Convention attendees will tour from four to six gardens in New Orleans and surrounding areas in Louisiana. Hybridizers of Louisiana irises and inter-species irises involving Louisianas are invited to send rhizomes of recent introductions and seedlings under consideration for introduction.

Please observe the following guidelines when sending guest irises as only officially submitted guest irises will appear in the *AIS Convention Handbook*.

Up to six rhizomes of each variety will be accepted from September 1 through October 15, 2015.

Please ship plants to: Joe Musacchia, Guest Iris Chair, 509 Linda Ann Avenue, Gray, LA 70359

Contacts:

Joe Musacchia 1canjunjoe@att.net (for GNOIS)

Paul W. Gossett pwgossett@juno.com (for AIS)

The name of the variety or seedling number should be clearly marked on each rhizome. In addition, the following information should accompany each variety on a separate packing list:

- Hybridizer's name and address
- Name or seedling number of the variety
- Type of iris (Louisiana or Spec X involving Louisiana irises)
- Height, color, distinguishing features
- Year of registration (and introduction, if applicable)

The packing list should include the contributors email address to receive an electronic receipt. Absent an email address, a receipt will be mailed to all contributors.

If a guest seedling is later named, it will be the responsibility of the hybridizer to notify the Guest Iris Chair of the change. Updates should include name and corresponding seedling number.

Shortly before the convention, contributors will be asked for instructions regarding disposition of the plants. Failure to reply by March 1, 2018 will be interpreted as permission to destroy all seedlings, and distributed named varieties, one to each host garden and the rest as determined by the Convention Committee. *No rhizomes will be offered for sale on the internet or other means which compete with sales by the contributors.* Guest iris returned will be sent freight paid, except for foreign addresses. The Convention Committee and the owners of the host gardens will strictly adhere to the Code of Ethics as printed in the *AIS Convention Handbook*.

The Convention Committee and host gardens will not be responsible for losses beyond their control.

REQUEST FOR LOUISIANA IRISES

Society for Louisiana Irises Convention

Dallas 2017

The Iris Society of Dallas, Texas will host the Society for Louisiana Irises Convention April 27-29, 2017 (date is tentative). Hybridizers are invited to send guest rhizomes of recent introductions and seedlings of Louisiana irises under consideration for introduction. Please observe the following guidelines when sending guest irises:

1. Up to four rhizomes of each variety will be accepted.
2. The guest irises will be accepted from August 15 through September 30, 2015.

Ship to:

Hooker Nichols
3365 Northaven Road
Dallas, Texas 75229

via United States Postal Service (USPS), or United Parcel Service (UPS)

In addition, the following information should accompany each plant on a separate packing list:

- a. Hybridizer's name and address
- b. Name or seedling number of the variety
- c. Height, color, and bloom season (EML)
- d. Year of introduction (if introduced)

If a guest seedling is named, it will be the responsibility of the hybridizer to notify the Guest Iris Chairperson no later than December 1, 2016.

A receipt will be mailed to all contributors. Shortly before the convention contributors will be asked for instructions regarding the distribution of the plants. Failure to reply by June 15, 2017 will be interpreted as permission to destroy all seedlings and distribute named varieties, one to the garden owner and the rest to the Iris Society of Dallas plant sale. All official guest plants will be returned freight paid, except for foreign addresses.

The Convention Committee and the owners of tour gardens will strictly adhere to the Code of Ethics as printed in the AIS Convention Handbook.

The Guest Iris Committee will not be responsible for losses beyond its control, and only irises received through the Guest Iris Chairperson will be listed in the *AIS Convention Booklet*.



Check out the AIS Blog!

<http://theamericanirissociety.blogspot.com/>

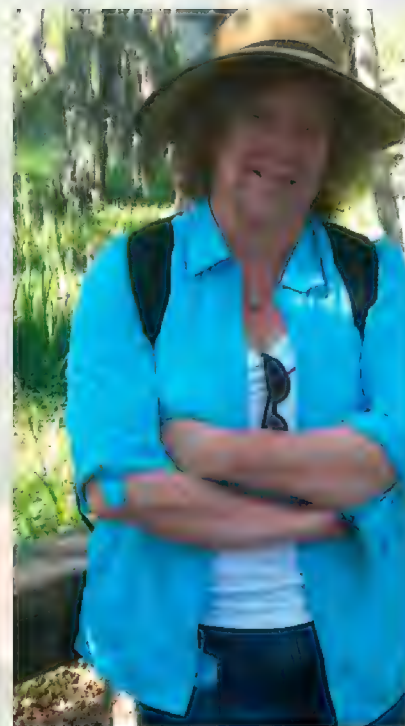


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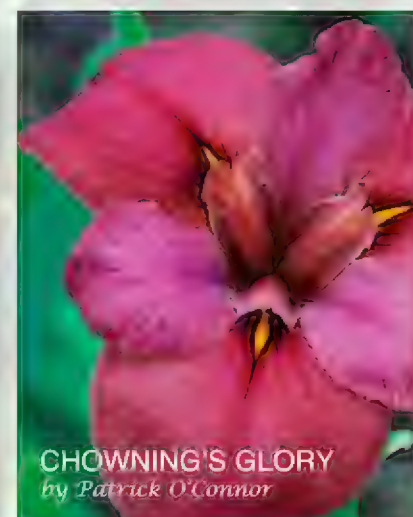
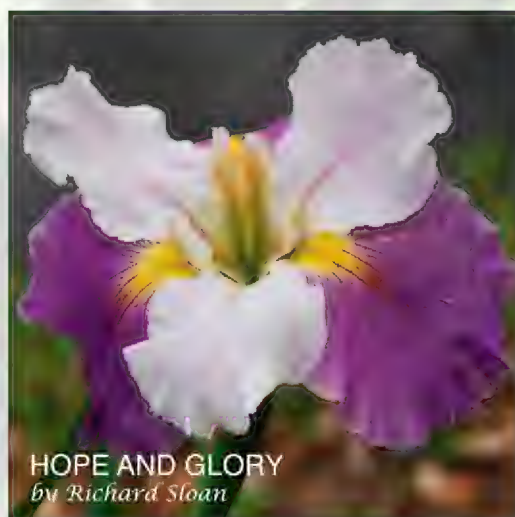
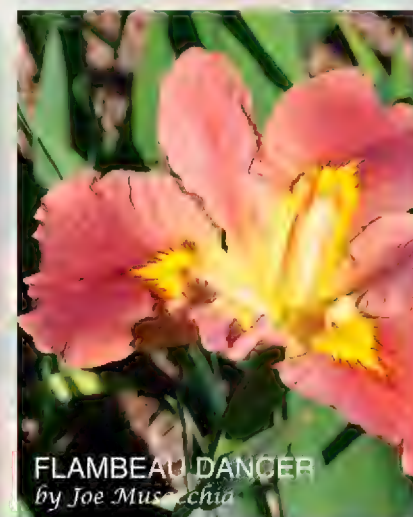
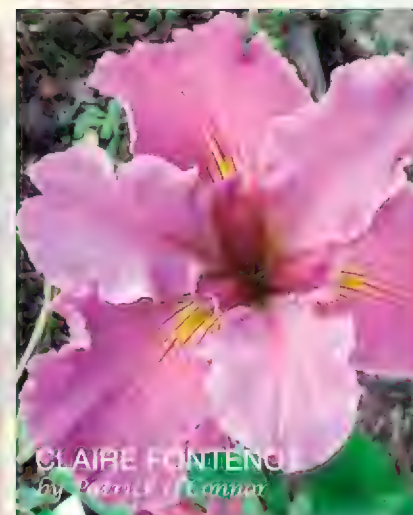
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An Introduction to National Collections

BY CHARLES CARVER, CHAIR, NATIONAL COLLECTIONS

The American Iris Society Board of Directors formally approved the formation of the Committee for National Collections (NC) in 2014 under the directorship of Robert Pries. In January 2015 I was appointed chair for National Collections. The first task for NC to address is the creation of a national databank or registry of all iris, in all classes, historic or modern, now being grown by members of the various societies affiliated with or under the umbrella of AIS. It is too big a job for one person, so the committee hopes to assemble a team of data chairs with representation from each section who will assume sub-chair positions within NC and act as liaison with their respective sections. Ideally, they will assemble their own teams to conduct surveys of their section's membership (best if those surveys were extended beyond the membership) and analyze the data.

We will need to establish criteria to determine if an iris is common, uncommon, rare, endangered, likely extinct or known to be extinct so "at risk" iris can be identified. The databank will most likely be housed within the framework of the wiki, organized by class with historic and modern varieties being clearly indicated by color coding or an asterisk notation. It will be designed to be easily administered and updated by the wiki docents who will have to adapt it annually to incorporate survey updates and ongoing changes from modern to historic status. It will preserve the privacy of curators who wish to have their inventories included but their identities protected.

There are many challenges to conducting a thorough survey. Many people grow several classes of iris but are not members of the section that promotes them. Some people may belong to a local or regional iris society but not to the AIS nor any other national or international society. And, the iris community extends beyond North America. Extending the survey geographically would create a larger field of reference, yield more conclusive data and unquestionably expose registered iris no longer available in North America.

The second task of NC is to oversee the creation of iris sanctuaries or preserves. My vision is based on class collections situated in locations most favorable to them. Ideally, there would be more than one for each class so that plant loss in one collection could be recovered from another. In the absence of a secondary (or more) collection, satellite collections could serve the same purpose, housing smaller portions of the core

collection(s). They might be dedicated, for instance, to the introductions of a particular hybridizer(s) like the Sass Iris Memorial Garden or Bluffton Memorial Garden.

National Collections will need to meet particular criteria and will be held to a higher standard than display gardens, the idea being that those standards will serve to provide greater assurance of a cultivars' survival, whether historic or modern. These gardens might be privately curated or established, administered and maintained by the individual sections whether as private gardens or within public gardens.

Public Gardens are part of the National Collection's vision which was inspired by the British national conservancy system. National collections, do not need to be based solely on class collections. Class collections simply provide a means to bring all those iris together in one location where they can be readily inventoried and maintained and provide for a core collection clearly defined and well represented. Collections can also be, as they commonly are, dedicated to the interests of the curator.

This sanctuary system will be guided by two programs, an historic program, and what I currently refer to as a shepherds' program. All iris will eventually become historic should they survive the journey. Because so many don't, the shepherds' program will be tasked with "shepherding" iris to historic status. All this may seem a formidable task, but the beauty of class collections is their manageability. Most classes of iris are relatively small, having fewer than 2000 varieties according to the current AIS wiki counts. If you account for extinctions of 40-60 per cent, most of those class collections would contain approximately 1000 varieties, some considerably less. Many people maintain collections of this size and far larger. Tall Bearded (TB) iris are a more challenging task with some 38,000 introductions now listed on the wiki; but again, half or more are extinct. Whatever the challenges, they can be addressed.

A relevant question to ask at the outset is, "Should we try to preserve all iris?" That is not meant to provoke a debate on the merits of historic versus modern iris which would be a distraction. However, is it worthwhile to consider that perhaps, as a friend once commented, not all iris are worth saving? Given that we currently are considering manageable numbers of introductions in each class (with the exception of TB) it is probably too early to be concerned with that discussion. NC,

however, will be exploring the idea of establishing criteria for determining which iris will be given priority status and whether the award and medal systems provides a reliable basis for that. Iris of distinction, it would seem, should be a significant factor. In the meantime and until such time as these questions need to be addressed it seems wise to preserve as many iris as we can.

The third task is to investigate sources of revenue to assist in the maintenance of core national collections. I have come to the idea of subsidizing collections from observations that iris societies are largely composed of an aging membership and aging is a factor that significantly impacts how well collections are maintained and thus effects preservation. Neglect is a factor in extinction. Iris societies themselves may be at risk of extinction and that may become an issue of import to NC.

An additional concern of National Collections is the protection of collections already assembled. Many collections, in the event of the death or disability of the curator, are abandoned, disposed of or randomly dispersed. Almost any collection of any size is likely to contain iris varieties that are uncommon, rare, endangered or perhaps the last remaining relic of a particular introduction. A system of provisions, such as a clause in a will, for the protection of such iris needs to be established that will assure a means of rescue for at least those portions of a collection. Public collections, whether held within a botanic gardens or under the domain of an iris society are attractive because they are not as vulnerable to the same risks as privately held collections.

There is a lot of work to be done to address the tasks outlined above, but the greatest challenge is to inspire everyone's participation however small the task they accept. Large tasks consist of component parts, the creation of personal inventories of our collections for example, responding to a survey, perhaps assisting with a particular piece of research that has a limited commitment. ♣

If you have any interest in assisting with this project, please contact:

Charles Carver

P.O. Box 39, Orcas, WA

<lefthandhorticulture@gmail.com>

Further reading:

<http://www.greateromahairissociety.org/SassMemGarden.html>

Buffton Memorial Iris Garden: Flags, Issue 3, October 2011 pages 16-18

Longfield Iris Farm catalogs <http://wiki.irises.org/bin/view/Hist/NurseriesLongfieldIrisFarm>



Sass Memorial Iris Garden at Mahoney State Park, Nebraska
Photo by Linda Wilkie

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BY MICHELLE SNYDER, INSURANCE CHAIR

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To obtain a Certificate of Insurance go the www.irises.org. Click on the Member Services link and then click on AIS Insurance and you will be taken to the page that has the instructions for obtaining the necessary Certificate. The form can either be downloaded and faxed to the number shown or it can be completed electronically and sent via email.

There is a statement that says "Is Certificate Holder requested to be named as an additional insured?" If you only need to show proof of insurance, circle No. If the venue needs to be named as an additional insured, circle Yes.

As always, if there are any problems associated with obtaining the needed Certificate, or if you have any questions in general regarding insurance, please contact me at either 928-282-5867, or <sammygiz@aol.com>.

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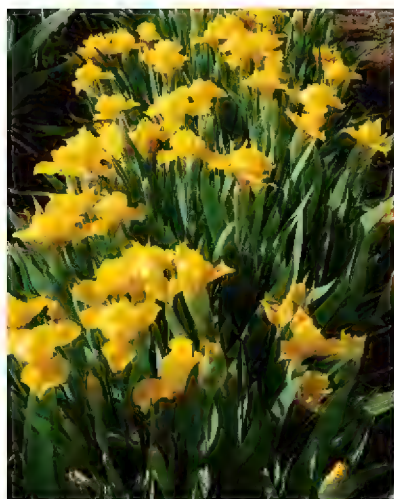
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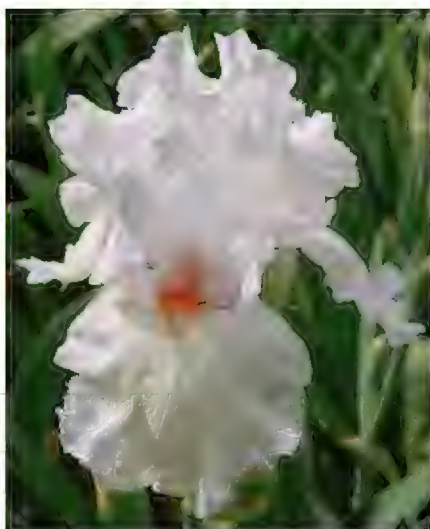
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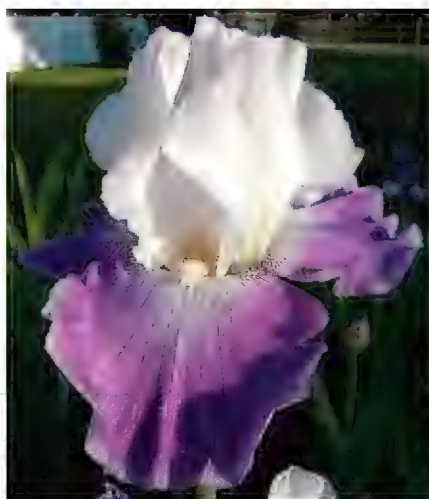
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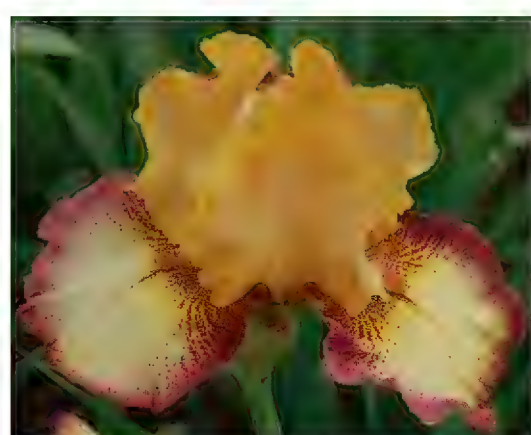
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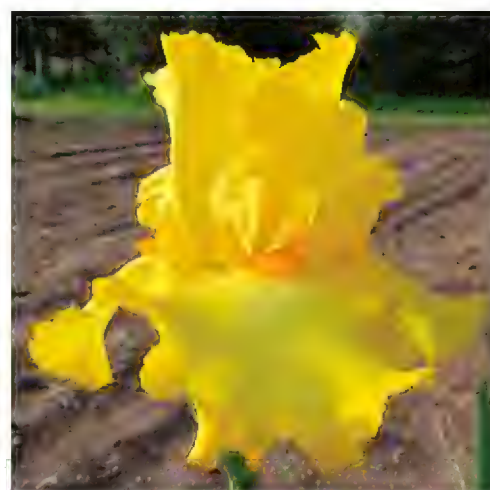
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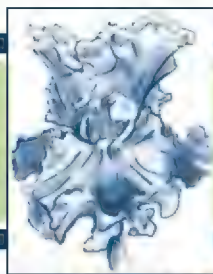
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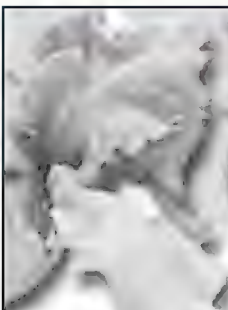
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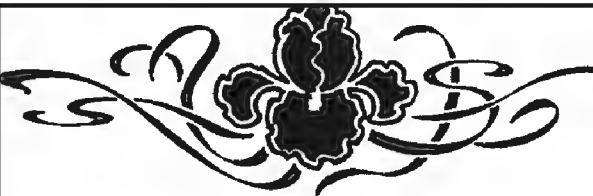
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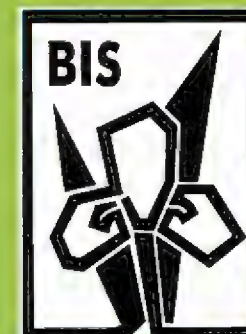
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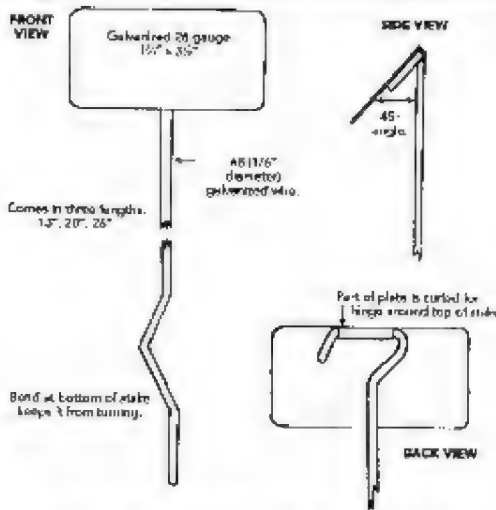
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Send digital ad copy to the editor <aiseditor@irises.org>. Send payment (payable to AIS) to Ron Killingsworth, 10329 Caddo Lake Rd., Mooringsport, LA 71060; 318-996-9969; <retmiagt@gmail.com>

Reminder: Your display ad is due to the editor by February 15 for the spring issue.
Send payment to Ron Killingsworth (address above)
Email the files to <aiseditor@irises.org> or
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Found in the back of each Bulletin. Placement is roughly alphabetical. Rate is for 4 issues.
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2" ad.....	2.25" w x 2" h	\$60.00
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Color Cover:

1/2 page inside front or 1/2 page inside back cover	\$300.00
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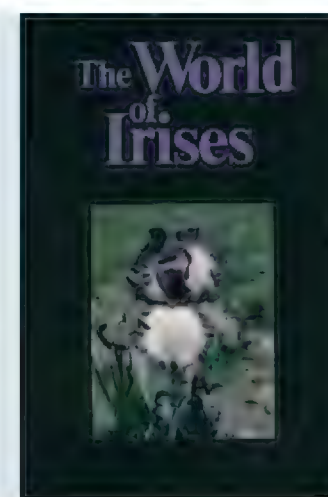
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Older issues (not all available): USA \$5.00, Canada \$8.00, International \$12.00.

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2009: 941 pages

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3 packs USA \$4.00; Canada \$6.00, International \$8.00.

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Order in packets of 25.

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Convention Liaison: Paul W. Gossett, 1502 South Boulder Avenue, Apt. #12B, Tulsa, OK 74119-4034, 918-853-6204 <AISconvliaison@irises.org>

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Tall Bearded Iris Society:

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Lori E.Lanford, 3053 Willoughby Road, Mason, MI 48854 517-203- 4050
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503-829-2928; <flags@molalla.net>

Society for Japanese Irises:

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<rbartontx@yahoo.com>

Historic Iris Preservation Society (HIPS):

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Judy Eckhoff, 7911 S. Yoder Road, Haven, KS 67543, 620-931-5114
<judy67543@gmail.com>

Society for Louisiana Irises:

Jim Leonard, PO Box 82367, Lafayette, LA 70598
<jrleonard@sprintmail.com>
Ron Killingsworth, 10329 Caddo Lake Rd., Mooringsport, LA 71060
318-996-9969; <retmiagt@gmail.com>

Section Membership Rates (contact information above):

If not noted, contact Section for overseas postage rates. All prices shown in U.S. dollars.

	Single Annual	Single Triennial	Dual Annual	Dual Triennial
Aril Society International	\$17.50	50.50	21.00 (family)	54.00 (family)
Lifetime membership: 150.00				
Dwarf Iris Society	\$8.00 (youth 6.00)	21.00 (youth 12.00)	10.00	24.00
E-membership: (Newsletter only in digital file) 6.00				
Historic Iris Preservation Society	13.00 (overseas \$20) (youth 5.00)	33.00 (overseas 52.00)	15.00 (overseas \$22)	39.00 (overseas 58.00)
E-membership: \$10.00				
Lifetime Membership: Single 225.00, Dual 250.00				
Median Iris Society	12.00 (overseas 19.50) (youth 10.00)	30.00 (overseas 52.50)	13.50 (overseas 21.00)	34.50 (overseas 57.00)
Reblooming Iris Society	\$10.00	25.00	12.00	30.00
Society for Japanese Iris	\$10.00	25.00	12.00	31.00
Society for Louisiana Irises	13.00 (overseas 30.00)	32.00 (overseas 82.00)	16.00 (overseas 33.00)	44.00 (overseas 90.00)
Society for PCNs Paper copies of Almanac	15.00 (overseas 18.00)	40.00 (overseas 48.00)	n/a	n/a
Electronic copies of Almanac only				
	\$7.00	\$19.00		
Society for Siberian Iris	10.00	25.00	12.00	30.00
Species Iris Group (SIGNA)*	12.00 (overseas 15.00)	32.00 (overseas 40.00)	12.00 (overseas 15.00)	32.00 (overseas 40.00)
Lifetime membership: 300.00				
Spuria Iris Society	12.00 (overseas 15.00)	30.00 (overseas 40.00)		
E-membership				
	6.00	15.00		
Tall Bearded Iris Society	10.00 (overseas 25.00)	27.00	15.00	41.00
Lifetime membership: 300.00				



Tall Bearded Iris in the Garden

PHOTO AND TEXT BY SUSAN SPICKER

Since planting my first tall bearded irises in 1995, I have routinely planted the reliable and hardy beauties with a variety of companion plants. In fact, one of the most enjoyable aspects of growing tall bearded irises is the countless ways we can use them in our gardens. Using a variety of companion plants for texture, shape, height and color can enhance the beauty of a garden. And, since the color range of irises rivals nearly all plants available in every imaginable hue, tone and color of the rainbow except maybe a true red, the possibilities are endless!

By using the early, mid and late blooms of the irises, there are several plants that fit into their window of bloom. For instance, the last of the single late tulips, or the first blooms of the hybrid tea roses overlap the early and late iris blooms. The colors, height and form of lupine add interest to the bed and are a favorite of mine to use because their bloom time perfectly coincides with the iris bloom time. Peonies, both tree and herbaceous, as well as poppies, are also favorites.

When planning flower beds for your landscape, always keep in mind the growth of the plant. I look for companion plants that are relatively easy to grow, are hardy and reliable, and plants that look their best with minimal care. Keep in mind the growth of your irises and the room they need to establish a nice clump. Even when planting close, allow room for them to “breathe” as they mature and reach their maximum size.

Be aware that close planting requires careful grooming of perennials in the early spring, and regular fertilizing and care of the soil for maximum success through the season. Choose flowers that provide great interest in height, form, and texture. Perennials I have used successfully in the iris beds have been allium, clematis, columbine, dutch iris, foxglove, delphinium, lilacs, and even early gladiola, whose corms have overwintered and start their growth early before I start planting new ones that will flower much later in the season. The good thing about all of these perennials is that their growing conditions are compatible with the conditions needed for tall bearded irises.

Bloom overlapping keeps your landscape in color throughout the entire growing season; you may need to experiment with different cultivars to ensure the longest bloom time. Whether you're a beginner iris loving gardener or an expert designer, the practice of companion planting in your iris beds will enhance your landscapes and bring a joy that I've found to be most rewarding. As you plan your beds, don't be afraid to experiment. If it doesn't work, you can always move the plants around.

ALS Conventions

"Iris In Wonderland 2015"

2015: May 18-23, Portland, Oregon

Chair: John Ludi

35071 SE Hwy 211, Boring, OR 97009

503-668-9230 <kludi@juno.com>

Convention Headquarters:

Red Lion Hotel on the River (Jantzen Beach, Oregon)

909 N. Hayden Island Drive, Portland, OR 97217

503-283-4466 www.Redlion.com/jantzenbeach

"East We Go In 2016"

2016: May 23-28, Newark, New Jersey

Chair: Paul W. Gossett <pwgossett@juno.com>

Co-Chair: George Boyce <glenara@aol.com>

2017: May 23-27 Des Moines, Iowa

Chair: Kelly Norris <kellydn@frontiernet.net>

Co-Chair: Gary White <in2iris@yahoo.com>

Future Section Conventions

Society for Louisiana Irises

2016: Shreveport, Louisiana

Siberian/Species Iris Convention

2015: May 24-25

Portland, Oregon

www.ais2015portlandconvention.com

Spuria Iris Convention

2017: Hosted by the San Fernando Valley Iris Society, Los Angeles, California

Median Iris Society Mini Convention

2017: May 18-20 Lafayette, Indiana

Fall Board Meetings

2015: Nov 6-7, Omaha, Nebraska

Chair: Linda Wilkie

402-493-3808 <lrwilkie@gmail.com>

Headquarters: Hyatt Place

Omaha Downtown Old Market

540 S. 12th Street, Omaha, NE 68102

402-513-5465

2016: Nov 4-5, Sedona, Arizona

Chair: Michelle Snyder

225 Sky Line Drive, Sedona, AZ 86336

928-282-5867 <aissecretary@irises.org>

Headquarters: Hampton Inn Sedona Hotel

1800 W SR Hwy 89A, Sedona, AZ 86336

928-282-4700



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